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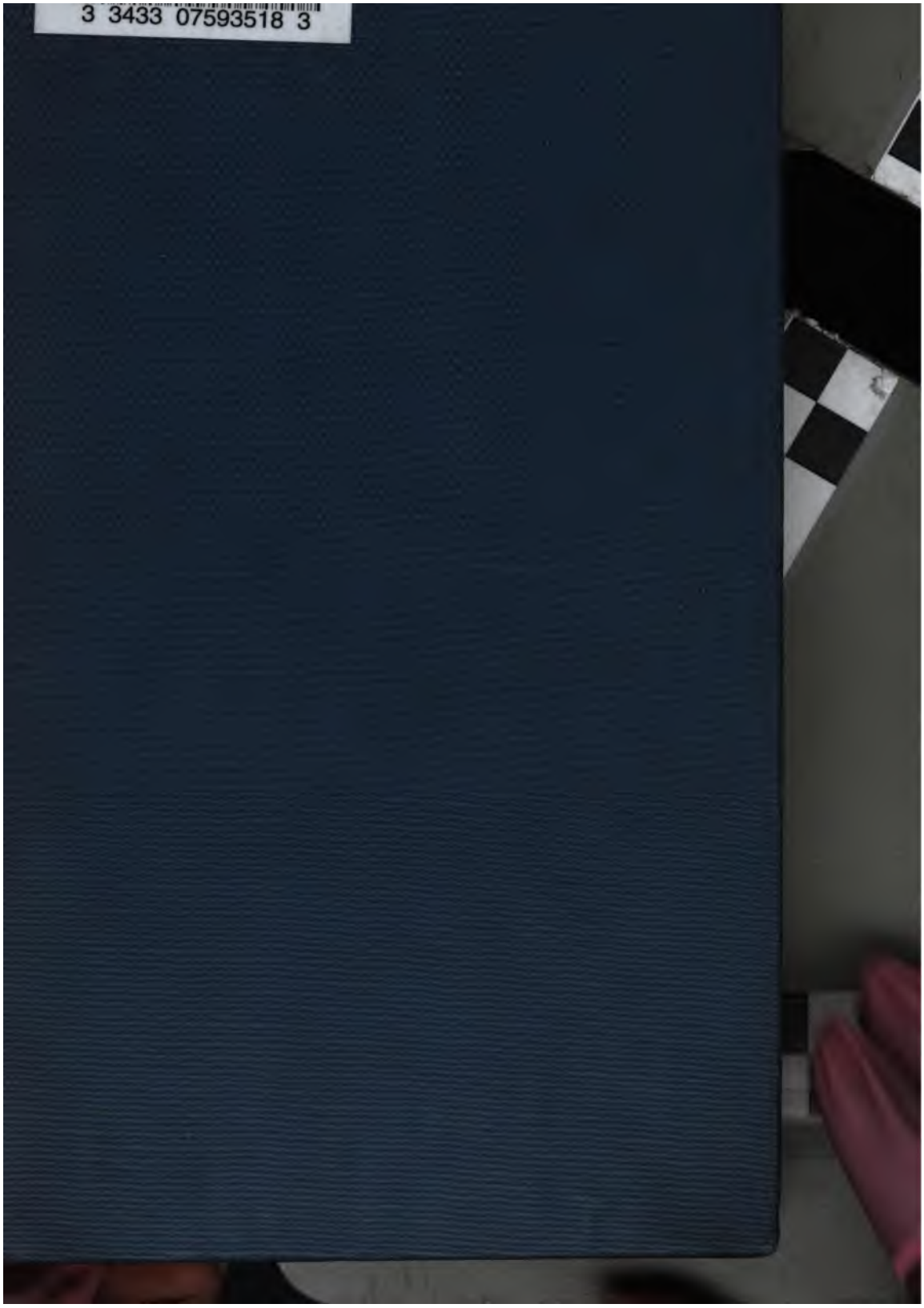

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# RULES

AND

# REGULATIONS

OF THE

# AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

FORMED

ON THE 14th APRIL, 1807.

*LONDON:*

PRINTED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
GEORGE-YARD, LOMBARD-STREET.

1807.

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*At a Meeting of the* AFRICAN INSTITUTION, *held at Freemason's Hall, Queen-Street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, July* 15, 1807,

His Royal Highness the

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER,

in the Chair;

A Report of the Committee having been read, containing a view of the objects proposed by the Institution, of the means for carrying those objects into effect, together with Rules and Regulations for its interior Constitution, the following Resolutions were successively moved, and unanimously agreed to, viz.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. Viscount Howick,

Resolved,

That the Report now read be received, and that the Rules and Regulations proposed by the Committee, be adopted as the standing Rules and Regulations of this Society.

On the Motion of Wilbraham Bootle, Esq.

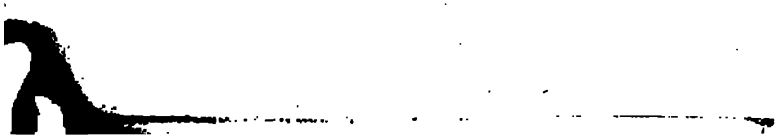
Resolved,

That Subscriptions be now opened, on the plan recommended by the Committee, and that Subscribers be requested to affix their names to their Subscriptions.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Resolved,

That His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester be requested to honour the Institution, by accepting the office of President, in addition to that of Patron.



On the Motion of the Right Hon. Viscount Valentia,

Resolved,

That the election of Vice-Presidents and of the Board of Directors be deferred till the next meeting of the Society; and that in the mean time the present Committee be continued, with authority to exercise the various powers with which the Board of Directors is invested by the Rules and Regulations which have now been adopted.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. Lord Headley,

Resolved,

That the Committee be requested to print, for distribution, the substance of the Report which has this day been read, with such alterations and corrections as they may think proper, together with the Rules and Regulations which have been adopted, and a list of Subscribers.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. the Earl of Selkirk.

Resolved,

That the warmest Thanks of this Meeting be given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, for his zealous and assiduous attention to the interests of this Society.

---

Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers, viz. *Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free & Down,* No. 1, Bartholomew Lane; *Messrs. Hoare, Barnett & Co.* No. 62, Lombard Street; *Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smiths,* George Street, Mansion House; *Messrs. Hoares,* 37, Fleet Street; *Messrs. Drummonds,* Charing Cross; *Messrs. Ransom, Morland & Co.* Pall-Mall; by the Treasurer, *Henry Thornton, Esq.*; or by the Secretary, *Mr. Z. Macaulay,* 26, Birchin Lane; to whom communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

## *List of the temporary Committee for Conducting the Affairs of the African Institution.*

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester,
Patron and President,

| | |
|---|---|
| Earl Spencer | The Chancellor of the |
| Earl Moira | Exchequer |
| Earl Euston | Right Hon. T. Grenville |
| Earl Rosslyn | Right Hon. G. Canning |
| Lord Grenville | Right Hon. J. C. Villiers |
| Viscount Howick | Right Hon. Sir J. Newport |
| Viscount Valentia | Right Hon. J. Foster |
| Bishop of London | Right Hon. N. Vansittart |
| Bishop of Durham | Right Hon. J. Smyth |
| Bishop of Bath and Wells | Sir Philip Francis, K.B. |
| Bishop of St. David's | Sir Samuel Romilly |
| Lord Holland | General Vyse |
| Lord Ellenborough | Henry Bankes, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Erskine | Thomas Bernard, Esq. |
| Lord Teignmouth | T. Babington, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Headley | T. Baring, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Henry Petty | R. Barclay, Esq. |

Henry Brougham, Esq.
J. H. Browne, Esq. M.P.
Colonel Barry, M.P.
T. Clarkson, Esq.
Edwd. Forster, Esq.
C. Grant, Esq. M.P.
Rev. T. Gisborne
Jos. Hardcastle, Esq.
Geo. Harrison, Esq.
W. Huskisson, Esq. M.P.
Steph. Lushington, Esq. M.P.
J. B. S. Morritt, Esq.
Zachary Macaulay, Esq.
M. Martin, Esq.
M. Montague, Esq. M.P.
W. M. Pitt, Esq. M.P.
W. Roscoe, Esq.
Granville Sharp, Esq.
Richd. Sharp, Esq. M.P.
John Simeon, Esq. M.P.
William Smith, Esq.
T. Woodroffe Smith, Esq.
Jas. Stephen, Esq.
S. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
R. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
H. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
Rev. John Venn
S. Whitbread, Esq. M.P.
W. Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.

N B. The Report read at the General Meeting on the 15th July will ſoon be printed, with a liſt of Subſcribers.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS, &c.

## CHAPTER I.

### *Objects of the Institution.*

THE general objects of the Institution are expressed in the following Resolutions adopted at the first meeting of this Society, on the 14th of April, 1807, viz.

1. That this Meeting is deeply impressed with a sense of the enormous wrongs which the natives of Africa have suffered in their intercourse with Europe; and from a desire to repair those wrongs, as well as from general feelings of benevolence, is anxious to adopt such measures as are best calculated to promote their civilization and happiness.

2. That the approaching cessation of the Slave Trade hitherto carried on by Great Britain, America, and Denmark, will, in a considerable degree, remove the barrier which has so long obstructed the natural course of social improvement in Africa; and that the way will be thereby opened for introducing the comforts and arts of a more civilized state of society.

3. That the happiest effects may be reasonably anticipated from diffusing useful knowledge, and exciting industry among the inhabitants of Africa, and from obtaining and circulating throughout this Country more ample and authentic information concerning the agricultural and commercial faculties of that vast Continent; and that through the judicious prosecution of these benevolent endeavours, we may ultimately look forward to the establishment, in the room of that traffic, by which Africa has been so long degraded, of a legitimate and

far more extended commerce, beneficial alike to the natives of Africa and to the manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland.

4. That the present period is eminently fitted for prosecuting these benevolent designs; since the suspension, during the war, of that large share of the Slave Trade, which has commonly been carried on by France, Spain, and Holland, will, when combined with the effect of the Abolition Laws of Great Britain, America, and Denmark, produce nearly the entire cessation of that traffic along a line of coast extending between two and three thousand miles in length, and thereby afford a peculiarly favourable opportunity for giving a new direction to the industry and commerce of Africa.

5. That for these purposes a Society be immediately formed, to be called

THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

## CHAPTER II.

*Means of effecting the objects of the Institution.*

TO prevent misconception concerning the views and measures of the African Institution, it may be proper in the very first instance to declare, that it is the Society's fixed determination not to undertake any religious missions, and not to engage in commercial speculations. The Society is aware that there already exist several most respectable Institutions formed for the diffusion of Christianity, and means not to encroach on their province. It may also be proper to premise, that it will naturally become the duty and care of this Society, to watch over the execution of the laws, recently enacted in this and other countries, for abolishing the African Slave Trade; to endeavour to prevent the infraction of those

laws; and from time to time to suggest any means by which they may be rendered more effectual to their objects; and likewise to endeavour, by communicating information, and by other appropriate methods, to promote the Abolition of the African Slave Trade by Foreign powers.

The means which it is proposed to employ for the purpose of promoting civilization and improvement in Africa are of the following kind.

1. To collect and diffuse, throughout this Country, accurate information respecting the natural productions of Africa, and, in general, respecting the agricultural and commercial capacities of the African Continent; and the intellectual, moral, and political condition of its inhabitants.

2. To promote the instruction of the Africans in letters and in useful knowledge, and to cultivate a friendly connection with the natives of that Continent.

3. To endeavour to enlighten the minds of the Africans with respect to their true interests; and to diffuse information amongst them respecting the means whereby they may improve the present opportunity of substituting a beneficial commerce in place of the Slave Trade.

4. To introduce amongst them such of the improvements and useful arts of Europe as are suited to their condition.

5. To promote the cultivation of the African soil, not only by exciting and directing the industry of the natives, but by furnishing, where it may appear advantageous to do so, useful seeds and plants, and implements of husbandry.

6. To introduce amongst the inhabitants beneficial medical discoveries.

7. To obtain a knowledge of the principal languages of Africa, and, as has already been found to be practicable, to reduce them to writing, with a view to facilitate the diffusion

of information among the natives of that country.

8. To employ suitable agents and to establish correspondences as shall appear advisable, and to encourage and reward individual enterprize and exertion in promoting any of the purposes of the Institution.

# CHAPTER III.

*Subscribers.*

1. EACH Subscriber of sixty guineas or upwards, at one time, shall be a hereditary Governor.

2. Each Subscriber of thirty guineas, at one time, shall be a Governor for life.

3. Each Subscriber of three guineas, annually, shall be a Governor during the continuance of his subscription.

4. Each Subscriber of ten guineas, at one time, shall be a Member for life.

5. Each Subscriber of one guinea, annually, shall be a Member during the continuance of his subscription.

6. Governors and Members shall have the right of attending all General Meetings, and of voting for the choice of the officers of the Institution.

7, Hereditary Governors shall have the farther privilege of transmitting, to any person whom they may appoint by will, their interest in the Institution.

8. No Subscriber, whose subscription shall be more than one year in arrear, shall have any right to vote at the General Meetings of the Society, until his arrear shall have been paid.

9. All annual subscriptions become payable on the 1st of January, in each year.

10. After the 1st of May, 1808, no person shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting, until he shall have been a Subscriber for six calendar months.

## CHAPTER IV.

*Management of the Institution.*

1. THE sole management of the affairs of the Institution shall be vested in a Patron and President, twelve Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Board of thirty-six Directors, to be chosen from among the Governors of the Institution, five of whom shall be a quorum.

2. Six of the Directors who shall have attended the meetings of the Board the fewest times, shall vacate their seats annually, and their places shall be supplied by a fresh election.

3. The Patron and President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer, are ex officio Directors; but for the more regular and systematic administration of the affairs of the Institution, a Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be

chosen by the Directors from their own body, one of whom, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

4. The Directors shall be empowered to hire or purchase a House or Office, and to appoint Officers for conducting the affairs of the Institution; to call General Meetings of the Subscribers; to divide themselves into Committees for the more convenient dispatch of business; to form local Committees for promoting subscriptions, and for other purposes connected with the welfare of the Institution; and generally to frame such By-Laws, not inconsistent with the fundamental rules of the Society, as shall appear to them to be necessary for the due administration of its concerns.

## CHAPTER V.

*General Meetings.*

1. A General Annual Meeting of the Subscribers shall be held on the 25th day of March next, and in every subsequent year on the Wednesday which is the nearest to the 25th of March, that being the day on which the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade received the Royal Assent.

2. At this Annual Meeting the election of the Officers of the Society shall take place, and the vacancies in the Board of Directors be supplied.

3. At this Meeting a Report shall be made of the proceedings of the Directors during the past year.

4. In case of an equality of votes, either at a General Meeting or at a Board of

Directors, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

5. A General Meeting shall be called by the Directors, in case a requisition to that effect shall be addressed to them by fifteen Governors or Members; which Meeting shall take place in not less than a fortnight, nor more than one month, from the time of the requisition being received.

6. No General Meeting shall be competent to the transaction of business, unless nine Governors or Members be present. If that number be not present, then the Meeting shall be adjourned for a week, notice being sent to the Subscribers.

## CHAPTER VI.

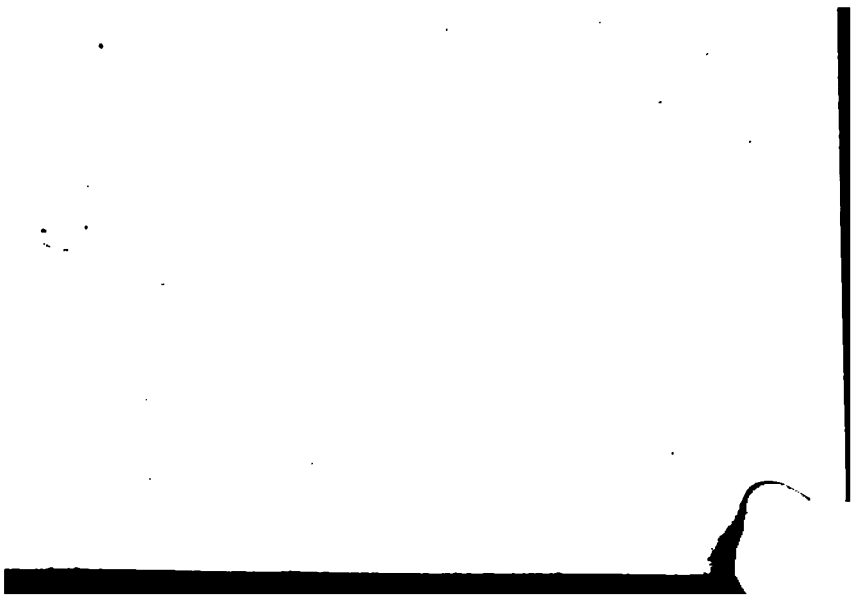
### *Funds of the Institution.*

1. THE Treasurer shall superintend the accounts of the Institution at their Bankers, and order payment of such drafts as shall be made on him by the Directors.

2. The Treasurer shall keep a general cash-book of all his receipts and payments, which shall be laid before the Directors at all their meetings; and he shall make up the accounts of the Institution to the 31st Day of December in every year, in order to their being audited before the General Meeting in May.

3. Three Auditors shall be annually appointed from among the Subscribers, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Institution.

*W. Phillips, Printer,*
*George Yard, Lombard Street.*



African Institution.

# REPORT

OF THE

# COMMITTEE

OF THE

# AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

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*Read to the General Meeting on the 15th July*, 1807.

TOGETHER WITH THE

# Rules and Regulations

WHICH WERE THEN ADOPTED FOR THE

## GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

*LONDON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS,*
*GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET.*

1807.

SEKA

*At a Meeting of the* AFRICAN INSTITUTION, *held at Freemason's Hall, Queen-Street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, July* 15, 1807,

His Royal Highness the
DUKE OF GLOUCESTER,
in the Chair;

A Report of the Committee having been read, containing a view of the objects proposed by the Institution, of the means for carrying those objects into effect, together with Rules and Regulations for its interior Constitution, the following Resolutions were successively moved, and unanimously agreed to, viz.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. Viscount Howick,

Resolved,

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On the Motion of Wilbraham Bootle, Esq.

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On the Motion of the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

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On the Motion of the Right Hon. Lord Headley,

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*List of the temporary Committee for Conducting the Affairs of the* AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President,

| | |
|---|---|
| Earl Spencer | The Chancellor of the Exchequer |
| Earl Moira | Right Hon. T. Grenville |
| Earl Euston | Right Hon. G. Canning |
| Earl Rosslyn | Right Hon. J. C. Villiers |
| Lord Grenville | Right Hon. Sir J. Newport |
| Viscount Howick | Right Hon. J. Foster |
| Viscount Valentia | Right Hon. N. Vansittart |
| Bishop of London | Right Hon. J. Smyth |
| Bishop of Durham | Sir Philip Francis, K.B. |
| Bishop of Bath and Wells | Sir Samuel Romilly |
| Bishop of St. David's | General Vyse |
| Lord Holland | Henry Bankes, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Ellenborough | Thomas Bernard, Esq. |
| Lord Erskine | T. Babington, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Teignmouth | T. Baring, Esq. M.P. |
| Lord Headley | R. Barclay, Esq. |
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M. Martin, Esq.
M. Montague, Esq. M.P.
W. M. Pitt, Esq. M.P.
W. Roscoe, Esq.
Granville Sharp, Esq.
Richd. Sharp, Esq. M.P.
John Simeon, Esq. M.P.
William Smith, Esq. M.P.
T. Woodroffe Smith, Esq.
Jas. Stephen, Esq.
S. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
R. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
H. Thornton, Esq. M.P.
Rev. John Venn
S. Whitbread, Esq. M.P.
W. Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.

# REPORT, &c.

A PLAN, which proposes to introduce the blessings of civilized society among a people sunk in ignorance and barbarism, and occupying no less than a fourth part of the habitable globe,* holds forth an object, the contemplation of which, it will be allowed, is sufficient to warm the coldest, and fill the amplest mind.

An attempt to recommend such a scheme of beneficence by considerations addressed to the feelings, seems wholly unnecessary; since the bare conception of the design must give birth to a more lively interest than any persuasions could produce.

* Africa is computed to contain 150 millions of inhabitants, but the interior is so little known that the estimate is purely conjectural.

But it is requisite, in order to obtain active support to any enterprize, that its object should not only be inviting, but rational, and capable of being accomplished.

Your Committee, therefore, in offering a few remarks on the general nature of this Institution, prior to a Report on the immediate subject of reference, (the Rules and Regulations proper for the constitution and government of the Society) have in view not to persuade, but to encourage; not to suggest motives but to obviate difficulties; and particularly to remove the most specious objection to our design, despair of its success.

The vastness of the object proposed by the Institution, may raise in some minds the idea of a rash and visionary project; especially when contrasted with the apparent disparity of the means which are to be employed, the efforts of a voluntary association of private individuals in this country. But it should be remembered, that the most

striking changes have often been produced in the characters and fortunes of nations, by means apparently very inadequate. There have been critical opportunities, in which the combined efforts of a few private men, or even the energies of a single mind, have sufficed to effect great revolutions in the opinions, the manners, the laws, and civil condition of a whole people, nay even of a great portion of mankind.

It is true, that such changes have been more frequently of a pernicious than salutary kind; for their authors have rarely been actuated by benignant feelings, but in general by ambition, or some other vicious passion: nor can it be denied that it is more easy, in public as well as private undertakings, to disseminate evil than good. If, however, the polished nations of the earth, when they first emerged from barbarism, had possessed historians to record the causes of that change, we should probably

discover, in some cases, that the talents or virtues of an individual (like those of a Czar Peter, or an Alfred) had suddenly imparted a new character to the institutions and manners of his country; and, in others, that intelligent strangers from a more enlightened region of the earth had produced, by their information and their practical aid, the same benign effects. In the early traditions of Greece and Italy some traces of such sources of civilization may be found: and the benefactors of nations, who were said to have descended from the skies, and were honoured as gods, are reasonably supposed to have been no other than intelligent foreigners, who first brought the useful arts of their own countries to a rude and ignorant people. A similar origin has been ascribed to the civilization which was found in some kingdoms of South America, on their first discovery by the Spaniards. If the nations of the old world had their Cadmus and Saturn, Peru

also had her Mango Capac, who instructed her once barbarous people in agriculture and the liberal arts, and whose accidental arrival from some unknown region probably gave rise to the fable of his descent from the sun.

Conquest, it must be admitted, has been the harsh and more ordinary medium by which the blessings of civilization have been conveyed from one part of the world to another; but this has been because no other has often been attempted. Polished nations have commonly been too selfish to send the plow and the loom to any country, till they have first sent the sword and the sceptre.

Commerce, however, which, after the first introduction of civilization into any country, has contributed to its progressive improvement beyond any other cause, Christianity excepted, has rarely been first extended in any new direction by force, or by any grand and concurrent efforts. The peaceable en-

terprises of individuals, aided by encouragement less important than that which our institution may be able to impart, have often been sufficient to explore the resources, excite the industry, and call forth the commercial faculties of distant and uncivilized nations. Let it not be supposed then that our association is chargeable with aiming at ends too vast, or too difficult for human efforts to accomplish. If we propose any thing more arduous than has often been effected before, it must be because it is more easy to do good by accident than by design; from the impulse of selfish than of benevolent feelings.

The immense extent of the field before us ought indeed rather to animate than to damp our efforts; for in the communication of knowledge,—of such practical knowledge at least as is of universal interest, and within the reach of every capacity—the difficulty is chiefly found in the first stage of the process. Like a hardy exotic in a kindred soil, it may

be speedily propagated on the largest scale, when once brought to flourish on the smallest.—Every pupil soon becomes a teacher; every successful example adds to the number of imitators; and though the field of exertion be originally small, the ultimate benefit will be proportioned to the extent of the sphere through which the knowledge thus communicated may be at last diffused.

When it was discovered, a very few years ago, that there is among the secrets of nature a sure and simple, though wonderful preventive, of one of the most fatal and loathsome diseases to which the human frame is subject, it was a work of no small difficulty to establish the credit of the discovery, and bring it into use, even in this enlightened metropolis. Yet already the practice of vaccination is known to the most distant nations of the earth; and it is probable that there will soon be no civilized

people in the world, by whom it will not be generally adopted.

This example, in another view also, may afford us encouragement: for by what means has a discovery so important to mankind been so widely and speedily imparted to distant nations, but by the efforts of private benevolence, aided by a voluntary association of individuals, in this country? Prejudice and incredulity resisted its progress as stubbornly perhaps as they may resist improvement in Africa; and the secret, though known in a western county, might never have been heard of even in London, if its propagation, instead of being assisted by the active and combined endeavours of a great society, had been left to accident, or to the comparatively inefficient efforts of individual benevolence.

Was Dr. Jenner's discovery one, the value of which might be demonstrated by experi-

ment, and brought home to the senses, as well as to the self-love of mankind? The same may be said of those arts and that knowledge which we hope to send into Africa, and which, by giving a right impulse to industry, and some culture to the human mind, must produce benefits of a kind to be understood and felt even by rude barbarians.

Objections more specious, however, may perhaps be opposed to us than the extent of the good at which we aim, when contrasted with the apparent feebleness of our probable means.

The people amongst whom we would endeavour to introduce the blessings of civilized life are a race very distinct in bodily appearance from all others; and are represented by many, as not less distinguished from the rest of mankind by the inferiority of their intellectual powers, and by their moral depravity.

"Upon them" it is alleged "the sun of science might for ever beam in vain; and even the humble arts, which form the exterior comforts of civilized man, would in vain be offered to these coarse and fierce barbarians. They are fit only for the yoke of a laborious and endless bondage."

But before we admit the justice of a representation so degrading to the character of the negro race, it will be proper to enquire who are their accusers, and what is the evidence on which such charges are founded.

The portrait of the negro has seldom been drawn but by the pencil of his oppressor, and he has sat for it in the distorted attitude of slavery. That there have been found in him such vices as in all ages and countries have been the fruit of private bondage, need not be denied: but that these have been much exaggerated by prejudice and contempt, and still more by policy and party spirit, is no less certain.

While the Aborigines of the West Indies were sinking under the oppression of the Spaniards, they were described by those adventurers as cannibals and monsters; and the Court of Castile gave implicit credit to such calumnies, till it was disabused, when too late, by the humane efforts of Las Casas. The African also is oppressed in the new world, and vilified in the old. His oppressors, like those of the Indians, were at length accused at the bar of their country; and recrimination was the expedient to which some of them resorted, in order to vindicate their conduct. They have denied that the Negro possesses either the feelings, or the moral or intellectual capacity of a human being.

Yet here their testimony has proved to be not a little discordant; so that with a moderate allowance for the ordinary effects of oppression, the character of the Negro might be vindicated by the admissions or inconsistencies of his enemies.

If he be accused of brutal stupidity by one of these prejudiced witnesses; another, or perhaps the same, taxes him with the most refined dissimulation, and the most ingenious methods of deceit. If the negroes are represented as base and cowardly; they are, in the same volume, exhibited as braving death in its most hideous forms, with more than human fortitude. Insensibility and excessive passion, apathy and enthusiasm, want of natural affection and a fond attachment to their friends, shipmates, and countrymen, are all ascribed to them by the same inconsistent pens. We are told, by almost every colonial writer, that severe coercion is necessary to quicken them to action; yet some of those authorities, and among them the most celebrated advocate of Negro slavery in France, ascribe to them an almost preternatural energy. After working for twenty-four hours without remission, they will, according to the last mentioned writer, voluntarily

travel two or three leagues, spend the whole night in dancing and revelling, and return by day-break to take their share in the most arduous labours of the crop, without any intermediate repose. They will, he assures us, pass an entire week without sleep, and yet go through their accustomed toil with their usual vigour. In short he describes them as possessing bodily qualities far superior to those of other men, and states it as a strong argument for effecting a counter revolution in St. Domingo, that if to such physical powers intellectual culture were added, the Negroes might conquer the world.*

But we might appeal also to other hostile testimony which is less inconsistent with itself; for some Colonial writers, amidst their zeal for slavery and the Slave Trade, have occasionally aspired to the praise of candour in regard to the moral character of the

* Barrè de St. Venant, p. 379—380.

Slaves, and have expressly repelled some of the accusations which have been adduced by other writers of the same party. The ingenuity of the Negroes is admitted or defended by one eminent authority, their gratitude by another, their parental and filial affection by a third, their humanity by a fourth, their docility and improvement under religious instruction, by all who have treated on this subject.

Your Committee are unwilling to swell their Report by extracts in proof of these remarks; but they beg to refer to Mr. Bryan Edwards, to M. Malouet, to Dr. Fermin, and to a highly intelligent work published in London in 1803, intitled, "Practical Rules for the management and medical treatment of Negro Slaves in the Sugar Colonies." The author has only designated himself as a Professional Planter, but the work is generally ascribed to the late Dr. Collins, of St. Vincent, a celebrated apologist of the Slave Trade.

Some positive praise has also been given to this injured race, in respect of which there is no contrariety of evidence. It is noticed for instance, by Mr. Edwards, and several other writers, that the old Negroes are universally treated by the young with singular tenderness and respect. Nor ought a trait like this to be deemed of small account, when we find it adduced by the first moralists of antiquity, as indicating an extraordinary degree of virtue.

If any consistency can be found among the apologists of Colonial slavery, in their charges against the Negroes, it is in ascribing to them the characteristic vice of falsehood. But this, like some other abject qualities, is uniformly the effect of private bondage; and we are so far from finding reason to believe that it peculiarly distinguishes the native African character, that there is good evidence of the very reverse. "One of the first lessons," (says Mr. Park in his travels)

" in which the Mandingo women instruct their children, is the practice of truth. The reader (he adds) will probably recollect the case of the unhappy mother, whose son was murdered by the Moorish banditti. Her only consolation in her utmost distress was, that the poor boy in the course of his blameless life had never told a lie."*

That Colonial slavery has generated most of those vices which are alleged in its excuse, was felt, and is distinctly admitted, by Mr. Edwards; and this is a fact which he was very competent to ascertain; for he had seen multitudes of newly imported Africans; had, as he himself informs us, many of them under his own management; and he appears to have taken pains to study their character.

It should be added that the vicious qualities of the Colonial Negro, as far as they really exist, are weeds which neither religious

* Park's Travels into the Interior of Africa, p. 264.

nor moral culture has been employed to pluck up. They are the growth, not merely of bondage, but of ignorance; and of ignorance, grosser perhaps than has ever existed elsewhere among the inhabitants of a civilized land: for it is not pretended that the West Indian Slave, from his birth or importation to his grave, receives from his master any education whatsoever, or possesses in general the means of acquiring any religious knowledge.

The charitable zeal of some religious societies in this country has indeed, of late years, supplied our Islands with a few Missionaries, by whom a small part of the Slaves have been instructed in the elements of Christianity, and provided with some means of public worship. And wherever this has been the case, a striking improvement of morals has followed. It has been publickly admitted by the Planters, and even by the legislative assemblies, of the Leeward Islands,

where alone the experiment has been fairly made, that the vices of their Slaves have disappeared, in proportion as they have been enabled to understand, and induced to embrace, the Christian religion.

If therefore the vices in question were inherent in the African character, and not the effects of oppression, still they would present no just ground of discouragement, but rather a new motive for perseverance: for they would be evils which our charitable aid might contribute to remove.

It is true that the plan of this institution does not embrace the propagation of Christianity, by any efforts of our own. That blessing may be best communicated to Africa by the societies which are already engaged in religious missions, or may hereafter embark in them. But in improving the temporal condition of the Natives, we shall greatly facilitate their conversion, and without interfering with any of the missions,

shall indirectly, and in a variety of ways, be serviceable to them all.

The moral quality most obviously important to our views, and in which Africans in their native country are alleged to be grossly deficient, is *industry*; and, doubtless, if we were to judge by what appears on the African *Coast* alone, and without any allowance for the necessary effects of the Slave Trade, the charge would be specious.

Indolence, it must be admitted, is a common characteristic of all uncivilized people; and therefore if this imputation, supposing it true, were a conclusive argument against attempting to convey to Africa those useful arts which cannot subsist without labour, it would apply to every similar attempt in every part of the globe. It would be conclusive against the endeavour at any time or place, or in any mode, to improve the condition of any part of our species. Nay, it would become an inexplicable paradox

how men who were once in a barbarous state, like our ancestors, should ever have been raised from it. But indolence is a disease which it is the business of civilization to cure. The motives and the means of industry must be supplied, before men can begin to be industrious. This argument, therefore, against our present undertaking is like making it an objection to the visit of a physician, that the patient is sick.

Waving for a while that too adequate explanation of the indolence observable on the coast, which the long prevalence of the Slave-Trade furnishes, it may still be asked what room there is for the notion, that it is greater, or less remediable, than the same bad quality in other countries, where its correction is matter of recent history, or contemporary example? Perhaps even within his Majesty's European dominions, in Ireland, or the Highlands of Scotland, cases might be pointed out of equal indolence, proceeding

from the same obvious causes, want of knowledge, want of means, and want of excitement to be industrious.

In the Northern parts of Europe we are told, by intelligent travellers, of deserts turned into gardens, and slothful savages into husbandmen and artizans, within our own days; and this by the mere efforts of individual landholders. Their only means, it is added, were such necessary instruction to their tenants or bondmen, and such slight but judicious encouragements, as their ancestors had been too selfish or too unreflecting to bestow.

But if we look to North America, there, at least, we shall find a people, to whom might have been speciously ascribed, even at a very recent period, invincible sloth, and irreclaimable vagrancy of manners. We have been long taught to regard the North American Indian as so strongly addicted to his native habits, and so averse to labour,

as to be absolutely incorrigible by precept, by example, or even by his own experience of the blessings of civilization, when brought for a while to taste them. But some well-directed efforts of that truly respectable body of Christians, the Quakers, have at length vindicated the Indian character from this reproach, and shewn that their long-continued barbarism has, since they were placed within the reach of Europeans, been chargeable less on their own indolence or prejudices, than on those of their civilized neighbours.

By methods which cannot now be detailed, but which may well merit future attention, several tribes of Indians bordering on the United States have been brought to exchange their hunting occupations for an agricultural life, to renounce many of the vices with which they were before chargeable, and even that to which they had been excessively addicted, and which it has been

deemed most difficult to give up, the immoderate use of spirituous liquors; and to learn several of those useful arts to which they had before been utter strangers.

The experience of several years has already shewn, that this is no transient reformation. Instead of depending on the chace for a precarious subsistence, these Indians now cultivate extensive corn-fields, and raise herds of cattle. Instead of their miserable huts, they are now possessed of neat and commodious dwellings. Plenty has succeeded to want; sobriety to drunkenness; and regularity to disorder. The enjoyments and feelings of family life have begun at once to reward and to secure these improvements. The females are released from that unnatural share of toil to which they were formerly subjected, and begin to take their proper station:—they are advancing in those arts of domestic industry in which they are best employed, and though not less active

or useful than before, are no longer disabled, from rearing their offspring by severity of labour and the hardships of a vagrant life. It therefore seems scarcely necessary to state, that population is already on the increase.*

Your Committee has the pleasure to add, that the government of the United States, convinced by experience of the value of this reformation, has lately granted a considerable sum from the public purse for its further extension; and the application of this aid has been wisely committed to the same benevolent society which has so judiciously led the way in this interesting work. Can there be a more striking proof that such enterprizes as our own are not impracticable; and that private associations, founded on a benevolent principle, are the best instruments in the prosecution of them?

If, notwithstanding the civilization of the

* See Accounts of two attempts towards the Civilization of some Indian natives. Phillips.

Indians, further difficulties should be raised on the ground of the supposed indolence and indocility of the Negroes; some fair evidence ought to be produced of the existence of those bad qualities, except when there is no adequate motive, or reasonable excitement to industry.

It has indeed been imputed to them, that, when in a state of freedom in our Colonies, they are never known to work in the field or in any other laborious occupation. This fact has been repeatedly adduced as an argument for the necessity of Slavery and the Slave-Trade: but the argument is quite fallacious, and can impose on those only who are utterly unacquainted with colonial affairs. The truth is, that the free Negroes and Mulattoes in the West Indies do not often work in husbandry or other coarse kinds of labour, because such occupations, being the ordinary business of Slaves, are not only disreputable, but far less profitable than

others, in which every free workman may find full employment. There no Negro obtains his freedom but by means of faculties superior to that of throwing the hoe, or carrying a burthen; and hardly any Negro, born to freedom, is uninstructed in some trade or profession far more lucrative than ordinary labour, unless, which rarely happens, he is rich enough to live without any exertion of his own industry. The argument therefore is just as fair, as if the indolence of Englishmen were to be inferred from the fact, that our gentry and citizens do not follow the plough.

As to the indolence which is seen on the Coast of Africa, the Slave Trade is its obvious cause. How can it be expected that men should addict themselves to the arts of agriculture and commerce, whilst the labourers in both are themselves the great articles of trade, and form the chief exports of the country? What adequate motive can be found for

toiling to improve their domestic comforts, or their possessions, by men who are in constant danger of being hurried into perpetual exile ?

Security of person and property must ever prepare the way for advances in the gainful arts of industry ; and after all, these are rarely cultivated in a high degree; without the stimulus of that necessity which an increasing population creates. There could be no surer expedient to subdue the active spirit of mankind, and to perpetuate their indolence and barbarism, than a trade which at once thins the population of a country, and breaks down every barrier of private right or personal safety.

It is needless to take into account the many vices adverse to industry which are generated by this traffic : for it is enough to keep men indolent that no fruit of their labour can be secure to them for a moment.

That the indolence of the Africans in their

native land is by no means an incurable defect, might however be shewn by other and positive arguments. We learn from all those travellers who have lately explored the interior of Africa, that there already exists, in districts remote from the coast, a considerable degree of industry; and that no small progress has been made in several of the useful arts. It is also observable, that though these gentlemen travelled in various directions, and from points of that continent widely remote from each other, they all found the same striking contrast between the interior and the coast.

There is reason therefore to conclude, that the indolence and barbarism of the Africans universally diminish as you recede from the coast towards the centre: or in other words as their distance from the immediate sphere of European commerce is encreased. It may be true that the Slave Trade pervades, in some degree, the whole continent:

but its activity and extent are inversely as the distance from the sea, while industry and civilization are found to prevail in an opposite ratio. The conclusion is not less important. than it is opprobrious to the European character.

Your Committee must again abstain from lengthening their Report by many extracts in proof of the facts alleged; but refer generally to the travels of Mr. Park, Mr. Barrow, and Mr. Golbery. They refer also to Captain Beaver for much conclusive evidence as to the disposition of the natives of Africa to work, when properly encouraged.

The following extracts from Mr. Park, however, are so comprehensive and direct, that they seem to merit insertion. "The Negroes in general," says Mr. Park, "and the Mandingoes in particular are considered by the whites on the coast as an indolent and inactive people; I think, without reason. The nature of the climate is, indeed, unfa-

vourable to great exertion; but surely a people cannot justly be denominated habitually indolent, whose wants are supplied, not by the spontaneous productions of nature, but by their own exertions. Few people work harder, when occasion requires, than the Mandingoes; but not having many opportunities of turning to advantage the superfluous produce of their labour, they are content with cultivating as much ground only, as is necessary for their own support. The labours of the field give them pretty full employment during the rains: and in the dry season, the people who live in the vicinity of large rivers, employ themselves chiefly in fishing." *

He adds that while the men are thus occupied, the women are very diligent in manufacturing cotton cloth, the quality of which he describes as very good, and their manner of dyeing it as excellent.

*Travels in Africa, Chap. xxi.

He afterwards enumerates manufactories of leather, iron, and other commodities, in which the Negroes have arrived at considerable skill, though with very imperfect implements.

But your Committee will add one more extract from the same writer, which furnishes strong matter of excitement to such benevolent attempts as we have associated to recommend and promote.

"It appears" (observes Mr. Park in summing up his account of the trade of Africa) "that slaves, gold, and ivory, together with the few articles enumerated in the beginning of my work, viz. bees-wax and honey, hides, gums, and dye woods, constitute the whole catalogue of exportable commodities. Other productions, however, have been incidentally noticed as the growth of Africa, such as grain of different kinds, tobacco, indigo, cotton wool, and perhaps a few others; but of all these (which can only be obtained by cultivation and labour) the natives raise

sufficient only for their own immediate use; nor, under the present system of their laws, manners, trade, and government, can any thing farther be expected from them. It cannot, however, admit of a doubt, that all the rich and valuable productions, both of the East and West Indies, might easily be naturalized and brought to the utmost perfection in the tropical parts of this immense continent. *Nothing is wanting to this end but example to enlighten the minds of the natives; and instruction to enable them to direct their industry to proper objects.* It was not possible for me to behold the wonderful fertility of the soil, the vast herds of cattle, proper both for labour and food, and a variety of other circumstances favourable to colonization and agriculture; and reflect, withal, on the means which presented themselves of a vast inland navigation; without lamenting, that a country, so abundantly gifted and favoured by nature,

should remain in its present savage and neglected state. Much more did I lament, that a people, *of manners and dispositions so gentle and benevolent,* should either be left, as they now are, immersed in the gross and uncomfortable blindness of pagan superstition, or permitted to become converts to a system of bigotry and fanaticism; which, without enlightening the mind, often debases the heart."*

Your Committee will now advert to another source of prejudice against our design, which is too important to be omitted. It is frequently alleged and believed, that an experiment to spread civilization in Africa has already been fairly made, and has completely failed, in the case of the Colony of Sierra Leone. But the assertion is untrue in both its parts. The experiment has not been fairly made; and as far as any attempts to lay a basis for the future civilization of Africa by

* Parke's Travels, Chap. xxiii.

means of that Colony have really been made, they have not been unsuccessful.

It is not the intention of your Committee to enter on a full explanation of the original plan of the Sierra Leone Company, of the unforeseen and calamitous events which opposed its successful execution, of the objects which have nevertheless been attained by it, or of the circumstances which have lately induced the Company to surrender to his Majesty the territory which they had acquired and settled, together with the public property and civil authorities which they possessed. Full satisfaction on all these points may be obtained from the printed Reports of the Company, and other public documents.

But your Committee will venture to affirm, that whatever disappointment the Proprietors of the Sierra Leone Company may have experienced, there is nothing in the history of that Company of a kind to dis-

courage the efforts of the African Institution. If commercial gains were expected by any of the Proprietors, their object has certainly been lost: even the capital itself has been sunk without having yielded any interest to the subscribers. But these losses have not been incurred through an attempt to civilize Africa by means like those which this Institution proposes to employ —It is no part of our plan to purchase territory in Africa, to found a colony, or even to carry on commerce.

Neither has the bad success of this Company arisen from any causes which evince an intractability in the African character, or any other fixed obstacle to our designs. It is sufficiently accounted for by the failure of those just expectations which led to its formation. This Company was instituted in 1791, when the Abolition of the Slave Trade, now at length happily accomplished, was not without reason regarded as an event near at

hand. The Company calculated on being delivered from the rivalship of that traffic, almost as soon as a beneficial substitute for it could be offered to Africa: instead of which, that bane of industry and innocent commerce was permitted to outlive their means of competition with it. They even in vain solicited Parliament to banish it from that almost depopulated region of Africa, in which their settlement was formed. English Slave traders were permitted to the last to frequent the same coast, to trade even in the river of Sierra Leone, and by their offers of European goods, which they furnish upon credit, to preserve their connection and influence with the neighbouring chiefs. Those unfortunate Africans were therefore easily diverted from improvements, to which the Sierra Leone Company would have led them; and they were at length even persuaded to regard with jealousy and ill-will the benevolent strangers whom they at first received with favor.

The unprecedented political events which soon followed the establishment of the Company might also alone account for its ill fortune. No one could have foreseen in 1791 that a maritime war would so soon have enlarged the expences, and checked the growth of the infant colony; much less that it would, like the Slave Trade, have continued its ruinous opposition during fourteen years.* Sierra Leone, be it remembered, was exposed to all the calamities and disadvantages of war, during the whole term of its occupation by the Company, except for an interval too short to afford any experience of its capacities in time of peace.

It ought not however to be dissembled that in the original design itself there was much improvidence, and such as even under

* It will be remembered that in May, 1792, Mr. PITT declared, that though it was impossible to speak with certainty on such a subject, there perhaps had never been a period in the history of this country when we might look with more confidence to the continuance of peace.

sunk by the public in each of those islands, after their cession by France in 1763, before they were made in any degree valuable to this country. But in Sierra Leone, all these expences were borne by the Company, till it could defray them no longer; and when the Colony was totally laid waste in the last war by invasion, the Company sustained the whole cost of its restitution. The assistance since received from Parliament has come too late to save the stock of the Proprietors, though it may possibly be the source of much future benefit to the nation.

When these circumstances are considered, even if we admit that the undertaking of the Company, regarded as a mere commercial enterprise, has failed, we may yet safely affirm that its failure has been less discouraging than that of the first settlers in the most valuable of our colonial possessions. It is notorious that, in the ceded islands before adverted to, though now, or lately,

in a state of high prosperity, almost every private capital, that was at first embarked in their cultivation, was lost to the adventurers. So extensive was the ruin that the very easy purchase-money of lands reserved to the government, though forming the first lien upon them, remained for the most part unpaid; and Mr. Edwards questions whether a shilling of the nominal sales ever found its way into the treasury.

This is, in truth, from known causes, the ordinary case with new Colonies. It has been proverbial that the first settlers generally fail, though their successors rise on their ruins: and if such is the fate of adventurers in the fertile, well known, and well defended field of our own Sugar Colonies, where they have few or no public establishments to maintain; it would surely be unjust to regard the losses of the Sierra Leone Company, under the peculiar circumstances which have been noticed, as a proof that coloniza-

tion in Africa can never be carried on to advantage.

Your Committee however would again remark, that supposing such an opinion to be well founded, it has no relevancy to the objects of the African Institution; for we mean not to colonize in Africa, or to trade there on our own account, but only to assist and give a right direction to the enterprize of others, and to excite the industry of the natives of that continent. And in these respects, the experience of the Sierra Leone Company presents to us nothing but encouragement. The possibility of introducing agriculture, innocent commerce, and other means of civilization into Africa, if it could reasonably have been doubted before, is established by what that Company has actually effected, notwithstanding what it has failed to accomplish. It has shewn that not only provisions, but the various articles of export which we now bring from the West Indies, may be

raised on the African coast. It has demonstrated that Negroes in a state of freedom may be induced to labour in the field. It has proved that the Native Chiefs may be made to understand such views as our Institution wishes to impress upon them. And above all it has shewn, that the grand obstacle to their heartily embracing those views has been the continuance of the Slave Trade.

The Colony of Sierra Leone can also attest, that free Negroes are capable of being governed by mild laws, and require neither whips nor chains to inforce their submission to civil authority. If a spirit of insubordination appeared for a time in that Colony, it was under circumstances which would in more polished societies have produced much stronger effects. The government was long destitute even of any lawful authority to punish crimes, and never possessed a military force which could overawe the turbulent. Yet if the course of events at Sierra

Leone be compared with the conduct of the first European settlers in the Antilles and on the American continent, whether English, French, or Spaniards, the result will be highly advantageous to the African character.

Nor has the Sierra Leone Company furnished us with matter of encouragement alone, but also with highly important means for the execution of our purposes. In their Colony, now about to be taken under the immediate care of government, there is a basis upon which we may proceed at once to build. In that centrical part of the great African Continent, schools may be maintained, useful arts may be taught, and an emporium of commerce be established, by those whom our patronage may animate, or our information enable, to engage in such undertakings. There, native agents may be found, and the African languages acquired. From thence, travellers may diverge on their journeys of discovery, and there the scattered rays of

information from the interior may be collected. Nor is it a small advance towards our ultimate purpose to have a secure and convenient station already provided on the Coast, with copious means both of defence and subsistence.

But a still higher advantage, derived from the labours of the Sierra Leone Company is, that the principles upon which we proceed, and the objects which we aim to accomplish, will not, in that important part of Africa, excite either surprize or distrust.

The greatest of all obstacles perhaps to the civilization of the natives of Africa by European means, would be the diffidence in our intentions which they might reasonably entertain. A poor negro might well conceive that a white man could have no other design, in courting his acquaintance, than to make a slave of him, and carry him from the coast. But the experience of fifteen years has now convinced the inhabitants of at least that part

of the Continent which is in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, that benevolence and good faith may really reside under a white complexion; that there are Englishmen who abhor the Slave Trade, and who, far from kidnapping the merchant or labourer who puts himself in their power, desire nothing but his improvement and happiness.

Nor can it be supposed that the knowledge of this surprizing fact is confined to the immediate vicinity of Sierra Leone. Its novelty has no doubt caused it to be known in more distant countries; so that Englishmen who may now solicit a commercial intercourse, even with a people of a country considerably remote from that settlement, may gain credit for their real purpose, and not be suspected of meditating violence and fraud under the mask of fair professions.

It is probable that no experience, much short of that term which has elapsed since the settlement of Sierra Leone, would have

sufficed to produce this consequence; and the progress of conviction may have been aided even by the perseverance of the Company under its misfortunes.

Your Committee, when it adds this last important advantage to the rest, is inclined to hope, that the losses of the Company may yet be largely compensated to the feelings of the Proprietors, by the permanent good effects of their labours. They have laid, it may be hoped, a deep and necessary foundation, which the wisdom of Government and Parliament will preserve, and on which, when the Slave-Trade ceases, the benevolence and the commercial industry of individuals will find it easy to build.

The only remaining objection which your Committee can anticipate, is the seeming inadequacy of the means which we can expect to possess and employ.

As we neither propose to colonize, nor to trade on our own account, how, it may be

asked, can we materially contribute to the civilization of Africa?

We answer, by the same means, in part, which are found necessary or useful for the promotion of agriculture, and for the encouragement of useful arts, or other patriotic and benevolent improvements, even in this enlightened country. We shall endeavour indeed to diffuse knowledge and to excite industry in Africa, by methods adapted to the peculiar situation and manners of the inhabitants. We trust to be able in various ways to promote an acquaintance with letters, and with the agricultural and mechanical arts, on different parts of the coast. We hope also to find enterprizing and intelligent men, who will explore the interior, not merely to gratify curiosity, but to obtain and disseminate useful knowledge, and to open sources of future intercourse. But information must also be diffused, and the spirit of commercial enterprize excited at home, in order that

individuals may be prompted by self-interest to aid us in the most effectual manner. And why, it may reasonably be asked, should the efforts of a respectable association be less efficacious in this part of our plan, than in other cases of a similar kind? If even in Great Britain, we have societies to suggest, patronize, and recommend improvements in agriculture; to foster the arts and sciences; to encourage our fisheries; and to promote other national objects; why should not a society to encourage African agriculture and African commerce, be equally useful and necessary?

What are the means employed by those various societies which we cannot with propriety adopt? To collect and circulate information respecting the commercial faculties of Africa, for instance, cannot be less conducive to the advancement of commerce with that country, than the publication of agricultural intelligence or of useful discoveries is to the im-

provement of our English husbandry, arts, and manufactures: and medals or honorary bounties may excite a competition in the importation from Africa of gum, ivory, dye-woods, indigo, or cotton, as well as in the planting of oaks, the catching of fish, or the breeding of cattle.

The utility of such a society is likely to be peculiarly great in the present case, on account of those very misapprehensions which your Committee have endeavoured to obviate.

When prejudice represents any new attempt as chimerical and extravagant, the enterprise of individuals may be unreasonably checked by the dread of ridicule or censure. Now what is more likely to remove this probable obstacle to experiments of the kind that have been alluded to, than the sanction and countenance of a numerous and highly respectable society, comprising in its body some of the most exalted characters in the kingdom?

Your Committee however will not attempt to enumerate the various ways in which our Institution may best promote the great ends for which it is formed. To obviate objections, a few of them have been instanced; but the extent and specific nature of our practical measures must be matter of future and deliberate discussion, by those whom the society may appoint to manage its affairs: and they must obviously in part depend on the extent of those pecuniary funds which we may be able to acquire.

Your Committee, having thus endeavoured to do away such objections as might prejudice our infant Institution, think it necessary to advert to only one argument of a positive kind in its favour, and that is the peculiar advantages for such an undertaking which the present moment affords.

The Slave Trade, among the innumerable evils of which it was the proximate or remote cause, produced, it must be allowed,

the effect of exciting, to a certain degree, a commercial spirit, and a taste for the produce and manufactures of distant countries, in the inhabitants of Africa. The British part of this Trade has at length been abolished, and will shortly terminate upon the Coast. That which has been carried on by America will cease about the same time. Denmark has also extricated herself from the guilt and disgrace of this commerce. France, Spain, and Holland are effectually precluded by the war from taking any share in it; and no other European nation, Portugal excepted, has ever been engaged in carrying it on. After the close of the present year, therefore, the Portugueze Slave Trade alone will remain to oppose or obstruct any efforts which may be made for the improvement of Africa. The privations to which the inhabitants of that Continent will thus be subjected are of themselves calculated to give a great impulse to their en-

terprize and exertion; and there is good reason to hope that many of the more intelligent chiefs will anxiously avail themselves of any practicable means which may be presented to them, for obtaining those European articles to which they have been hitherto accustomed. At such a moment, how much may be effected by an Institution prepared to furnish, what that intelligent traveller, Mr. Parke, states to be alone wanting to the improvement of this quarter of the globe; "example to enlighten the minds of the natives, and instruction to enable them to direct their industry to proper objects?"

Nor ought we to overlook the benefits which this country is likely to derive from such a developement of the faculties of the African Continent. While that gigantic power at the feet of which the Continent of Europe now lies prostrate, is employing his utmost efforts to prevent our commerce from flowing in its ancient channels, surely it be-

comes us to cherish every reasonable prospect of finding other outlets. We have achieved a great and splendid act of national justice in abolishing the Slave Trade. The chain which bound Africa to the dust, and prevented the success of every effort that was made to raise her, is now broken. Let our benevolence interpose to repair the ruin and degradation which we have contributed to bring upon her, and to teach her the use of her liberated faculties; and we may soon discover, by our own happy experience, that in exercising justice and benevolence towards her, whatever may be the apparent sacrifice, we have only been laying a more solid foundation for the enlargement of our own national prosperity.

The Committee will now proceed to submit to the Meeting the plan which seems to them best adapted for the interior Constitution and Government of the Society. To this they have deemed it proper to prefix a Sum-

mary of the grand objects, to promote which we have associated, as declared at the last General Meeting; with some practical suggestions, as to the general nature of those means which it may be expedient to employ.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS, &c.

## CHAPTER I.

### *Objects of the Institution.*

THE general objects of the Institution are expressed in the following Resolutions adopted at the first meeting of this Society, on the 14th of April, 1807, viz.

1. That this Meeting is deeply impressed with a sense of the enormous wrongs which the natives of Africa have suffered in their intercourse with Europe; and from a desire to repair those wrongs, as well as from general feelings of benevolence, is anxious to adopt such measures as are best calculated to promote their civilization and happiness.

2. That the approaching cessation of the Slave Trade hitherto carried on by Great Britain, America, and Denmark, will, in a considerable degree, remove the barrier which has so long obstructed the natural course of social improvement in Africa; and that the way will be thereby opened for introducing the comforts and arts of a more civilized state of society.

3. That the happiest effects may be reasonably anticipated from diffusing useful knowledge, and exciting industry among the inhabitants of Africa, and from obtaining and circulating throughout this Country more ample and authentic information concerning the agricultural and commercial faculties of that vast Continent; and that through the judicious prosecution of these benevolent endeavours, we may ultimately look forward to the establisment, in the room of that traffic, by which Africa has been so long degraded, of a legitimate

and far more extended commerce, beneficial alike to the natives of Africa and to the manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland.

4. That the present period is eminently fitted for prosecuting these benevolent designs; since the suspension, during the war, of that large share of the Slave Trade, which has commonly been carried on by France, Spain, and Holland, will, when combined with the effect of the Abolition Laws of Great Britain, America, and Denmark, produce nearly the entire cessation of that traffic along a line of coast extending between two and three thousand miles in length, and thereby afford a peculiarly favourable opportunity for giving a new direction to the industry and commerce of Africa.

5. That for these purposes a Society be immediately formed, to be called

THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

# CHAPTER II.

*Means of effecing the objects of the Institution.*

TO prevent misconception concerning the views and measures of the African Institution, it may be proper in the very first instance to declare, that it is the Society's fixed determination not to undertake any religious missions, and not to engage in commercial speculations. The Society is aware that there already exist several most respectable Institutions formed for the diffusion of Christianity, and means not to encroach on their province. It may also be proper to premise, that it will naturally become the duty and care of this Society, to watch over the execution of the laws, recently enacted in this and other countries, for abolishing the African Slave Trade; to endeavour to prevent the infraction of those

laws; and from time to time to suggest any means by which they may be rendered more effectual to their objects; and likewise to endeavour, by communicating information, and by other appropriate methods, to promote the Abolition of the African Slave Trade by Foreign powers.

The means which it is proposed to employ for the purpose of promoting civilization and improvement in Africa are of the following kind.

1. To collect and diffuse, throughout this country, accurate information respecting the natural productions of Africa, and, in general, respecting the agricultural and commercial capacities of the African Continent, and the intellectual, moral, and political condition of its inhabitants.

2. To promote the instruction of the Africans in letters and in useful knowledge, and to cultivate a friendly connection with the natives of that Continent.

3. To endeavour to enlighten the minds of the Africans with respect to their true interests; and to diffuse information amongst them respecting the means whereby they may improve the present opportunity of substituting a beneficial commerce in place of the Slave Trade.

4. To introduce amongst them such of the improvements and useful arts of Europe as are suited to their condition.

5. To promote the cultivation of the African soil, not only by exciting and directing the industry of the natives, but by furnishing, where it may appear advantageous to do so, useful seeds and plants, and implements of husbandry.

6. To introduce amongst the inhabitants beneficial medical discoveries.

7. To obtain a knowledge of the principal languages of Africa, and, as has already been found to be practicable, to reduce them to writing, with a view to facilitate the diffusion

of information among the natives of that country.

8. To employ suitable agents and to establish correspondences as shall appear advisable, and to encourage and reward individual enterprize and exertion in promoting any of the purposes of the Institution.

# CHAPTER III.

*Subscribers.*

1. EACH Subscriber of sixty guineas or upwards, at one time, shall be a hereditary Governor.

2. Each Subscriber of thirty guineas, at one time, shall be a Governor for life.

3. Each Subscriber of three guineas, annually, shall be a Governor during the continuance of his subscription.

4. Each Subscriber of ten guineas, at one time, shall be a Member for life.

5. Each Subscriber of one guinea, annually, shall be a Member during the continuance of his subscription.

6. Governors and Members shall have the right of attending all General Meetings, and of voting for the choice of the officers of the Institution.

7. Hereditary Governors shall have the farther privilege of transmitting, to any person whom they may appoint by will, their interest in the Institution.

8. No Subscriber, whose subscription shall be more than one year in arrear, shall have any right to vote at the General Meetings of the Society, until his arrear shall have been paid.

9. All annual subscriptions become payable on the 1st of January, in each year.

10. After the 1st of May, 1808, no person shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting, until he shall have been a Subscriber for six calendar months.

# CHAPTER IV.

*Management of the Institution.*

1. THE sole management of the affairs of the Institution shall be vested in a Patron and President, twelve Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Board of thirty-six Directors, to be chosen from among the Governors of the Institution, five of whom shall be a quorum.

2. Six of the Directors who shall have attended the meetings of the Board the fewest times, shall vacate their seats annually, and their places shall be supplied by a fresh election.

3. The Patron and President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer, are *ex officio* Directors; but for the more regular and systematic administration of the affairs of the Institution, a Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be

chosen by the Directors from their own body, one of whom, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

4. The Directors shall be empowered to hire or purchase a House or Office, and to appoint Officers for conducting the affairs of the Institution; to call General Meetings of the Subscribers; to divide themselves into Committees for the more convenient dispatch of business; to form local Committees for promoting subscriptions, and for other purposes connected with the welfare of the Institution; and generally to frame such By-Laws, not inconsistent with the fundamental rules of the Society, as shall appear to them to be necessary for the due administration of its concerns.

# CHAPTER V.

## *General Meetings.*

1. A General Annual Meeting of the Subscribers shall be held on the 25th day of March next, and in every subsequent year on the Wednesday which is the nearest to the 25th of March, that being the day on which the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade received the Royal Assent.

2. At this Annual Meeting the Election of the Officers of the Society shall take place, and the vacancies in the Board of Directors be supplied.

3. At this Meeting a Report shall be made of the proceedings of the Directors during the past year.

4. In case of an equality of Votes, either at a General Meeting or at a Board of

Directors, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

5. A General Meeting shall be called by the Directors, in case a requisition to that effect shall be addressed to them by fifteen Governors or Members; which meeting shall take place in not less than a fortnight, nor more than one month, from the time of the requisition being received.

6. No General Meeting shall be competent to the transaction of business, unless nine Governors or Members be present. If that number be not present, then the Meeting shall be adjourned for a week, notice being sent to the Subscribers.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Funds of the Institution.*

1. THE Treasurer shall superintend the accounts of the Institution at their Bankers, and order payment of such drafts as shall be made on him by the Directors.

2. The Treasurer shall keep a general cash-book of all his receipts and payments, which shall be laid before the Directors at all their meetings; and he shall make up the accounts of the Institution to the 31st Day of December in every year, in order to their being audited before the General Meeting in May.

3. Three Auditors shall be annually appointed from among the Subscribers, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Institution.

*Printed by W. Phillips,*
*George Yard, Lombard Street.*

# African Institution.

SECOND REPORT.

*Patron and President,*

His Royal Highness the Duke of GLOUCESTER.

*Vice-Presidents.*

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury
His Grace the Duke of Grafton
Earl Selkirk
Earl Spencer
Earl Grosvenor
Earl Grey
Earl Moira
Viscount Milton
Viscount Valentia
Right Honourable Lord Henry Petty
The Lord Bishop of London
The Lord Bishop of Durham
The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells
The Lord Bishop of St. David's
Right Honourable Lord Holland
Right Honourable Lord Grenville
Right Honourable Lord Erskine
Right Honourable Lord Teignmouth
Right Honourable Spencer Perceval
Right Honourable George Canning
William Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.

*Treasurer.*

Henry Thornton, Esq. M.P.

*Board of Directors.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Right Hon. Lord Headley | Geo. Harrison, Esq. |
| Right Hon. J. C. Villiers | John Huddleſtone, Esq. |
| Right Hon. Sir J. Newport | William Jacob, Esq. |
| Right Hon. Iſaac Corry | Matthew Martin, Esq. |
| Right Hon. J. Smyth | M. Montague, Esq. M.P. |
| Right Hon. N. Vansittart | Zachary Macaulay, Esq. |
| Sir Samuel Romilly | W. M. Pitt, Esq. M.P. |
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| Thomas Bernard, Esq. | T. Woodroffe Smith, Esq. |
| Wilbraham Bootle, Esq MP | Jas. Stephen, Esq. M.P. |
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| I. H. Browne, Esq. M.P. | R. Thornton, Esq. M.P. |
| Thomas Clarkson, Esq. | John Thornton, Esq. |
| Edwd. Forster, Esq. | James Towers, Esq. |
| Thomas F. Forster, Esq. | S. Whitbread, Esq. M.P. |
| Charles Grant, Esq. M.P. | James Rice Williams, Esq. |

*Secretary, pro tem.*

Z. Macaulay, Esq.

*Collector.*

Mr. John Crisp.

A Subscription of Sixty Guineas or upwards, at one time, constitutes a hereditary Governor.—Of Thirty Guineas at one time, a Governor for Life.—Of Three Guineas Annually, an Annual Governor.—Of Ten Guineas at one time, a Member for Life.—Of One Guinea Annually, an Annual Member.

The Board of Directors is chosen from among the Governors.

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS are received by the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free & Down, No. 1, Bartholomew-lane; Messrs. Hoare, Barnett & Co. No. 62, Lombard Street; Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, George Street, Mansion-house; Messrs. Hoares, 37, Fleet Street; Messrs. Drummonds, Charing Cross; Messrs. Ransom, Morland & Co. Pall Mall; by the Treasurer, Henry Thornton, Esq. by the Secretary, Mr. Z. Macaulay, or by Mr. John Crisp, the Collector, 26, Birchin Lane; to whom, or to the Secretary, Communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

N. B. The First Report of the Institution, containing a full exposition of its design, and a copy of the Laws and Regulations adopted for its government, may be obtained from Mr. CRISP, as above, or from J. HATCHARD, 190, Piccadilly.

## *ADVERTISEMENT.*

SINCE the following Report was made to the Subscribers, some Resolutions have been adopted by the Board of Directors, to which it is important to give early publicity. They are as follows, viz.

RESOLVED,

That it appears expedient to encourage and promote the study of the native languages of Africa, by the Europeans and others resident at Sierra Leone.

That, with that view, proper persons be engaged to teach the Arabic and Susoo languages at that Colony.*

That the Governor and Council, the Chief Judge, the Mayor or other principal municipal officer, and the Chaplain of the Colony, for the time being, be requested to draw up the rules and regulations under which these teachers shall act, and by which their pupils shall be governed, subject to the approbation of the Board of Directors at home; and also to institute periodical examinations, and to distribute medals or other honorary rewards, in cases of extraordinary proficiency;

* See Appendix F.

transmitting from time to time an account of the state of the Seminary, and of the result of such examinations, to this country.

That the same persons be requested to institute similar examinations, and to distribute similar rewards, for proficiency in the English language, at the seminary which has been formed at Sierra Leone, at the Society's expence, for the instruction of native youth.

The Board of Directors have also Resolved,

That the following premiums be proposed, with a view to encourage, in Africa, the cultivation of exportable produce, viz.

1. To the person who shall first import into this country the largest quantity, not less than a ton, of cotton wool, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, and which shall be pronounced by competent judges to be fit for the English market, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

2. To the person who shall first import into this country the greatest quantity of manufactured indigo, not less than one hundred weight, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, in a marketable state, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

3. To the person who shall first import into this country the largest quantity, not less than ten tons, of white rice, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, in a clean and marketable state, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

N. B. A certificate must be produced by the person claiming the reward, in any of the above cases, signed by the governor or presiding officer of the settlement at which the articles shall have been shipped, certifying that they are the produce of the Western Coast of Africa, and specifying, if possible, the place of their growth.

4. To the person who, before the first of January, 1810, shall plant, within the Colony of Sierra Leone, the greatest number of acres, not less than ten, with coffee plants, agreeably to the annexed regulations, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimants.

The regulations are, that the coffee shall be of that kind, now growing at Sierra Leone, which is deemed the best for the European market; that it shall be planted on new ground; that the plants shall be eight feet apart; and that they shall be kept clean and free from weeds. A certificate to that effect must be produced from the governor or presiding officer of the settlement.

# REPORT, &c.

THE Report made by the Committee, on the 15th of July last, contained a general view of the objects proposed by the Institution, with an answer to some popular objections that had been urged against the practicability of its plans. This Report has been printed, and largely circulated, both in London and in every part of the united kingdom, and, as the Committee have reason to believe, has produced, wherever it has been circulated, an impression in favour of the Institution: And if the funds of the Society have not increased in proportion to its apparent popularity, this appears to have arisen from its not having been sufficiently known that Subscriptions would be immediately wanted, rather than from any other cause. The Committee cannot but entertain a confident persuasion, that the necessary support will not be withheld, if the friends of the Institution shall make it be understood in their several

circles, that farther pecuniary assistance is required, in order to carry its benevolent purposes into effect.

The first care of the Committee has been to open a correspondence with such persons in Africa as were likely to be useful in promoting the Society's views. The persons to whom they have written are Mr. Ludlam, the Governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Torane, the Governor of Cape Coast Castle.

The latter gentleman, Mr. Torane, having shewn a desire to be instrumental in introducing, into Africa, the cultivation of exportable produce, they acquainted him with the nature and design of the Institution, and expressed their desire to aid his efforts. They requested at the same time a communication of such remarks, as a perusal of their Report might suggest to him, together with any particulars which he might deem to be important, respecting the state and capacities of the African Continent, and the condition of its inhabitants.

To the Governor of Sierra Leone they wrote much more at large, as Sierra Leone appeared to them the place where their efforts, for the improvement of Africa, might most advantageously commence, and as, from the knowledge which several of their members had of Mr. Ludlam, they were led to place no small reliance as well on that gentleman's judgment and local information, as on

his cordial attachment to the cause of African civilization.

They directed Mr. Ludlam's attention, in the first instance, to the important object of giving full effect to the act for abolishing the Slave Trade, requesting to be informed, from time to time, of the actual state of that trade, (whether British or Foreign) on the Coast; of the degree in which the abolition laws of Great Britain, and of other nations, are effectual; and, if ineffectual, by what means and under what pretences they are evaded; and also what steps may be advantageously taken to prevent such evasions.

The Committee, however, were aware, that even the complete prevention of the export of Slaves from the Coast, might produce little immediate effect in civilizing Africa, unless something could be done to counteract those pernicious habits which the Slave Trade had nourished, and particularly to convince the native Chiefs how essential it is to the prosperity of their country, that measures should be immediately adopted for insuring to their subjects the safe enjoyment of person and property. On this subject they transmitted to Mr. Ludlam some suggestions with which they had been favoured, and on which they requested his deliberate opinion.*

* See Appendix A.

The Committee directed Mr. Ludlam's attention to various other points, such as the best means of setting on foot journies of discovery, of promoting agriculture, of cultivating the friendship and confidence of the native powers, and of producing among them a spirit of union and harmony. And besides requesting him to furnish the Committee with all the information in his power, respecting the natural productions of Africa, its agricultural and commercial faculties, and the moral intellectual and political condition of its inhabitants, they particularly urged him, with a view to the success and stability of the Colony of Sierra Leone, to employ the lights, which an experience of upwards of ten years had afforded him, in pointing out, with precision and in detail, the system of policy which appeared to him best suited to the circumstance of the Colony, in regard to its interior management, and its relations with the African Chiefs; and in regard also to the promotion of civilization, both within the Colony, and, by means of the Colony, among the surrounding natives.

The Committee, at the same time, empowered Mr. Ludlam to erect a School at Sierra Leone, under the patronage and at the expence of the Institution, the object of which should be not merely to teach reading and writing, but to combine with these elementary branches of knowledge, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. It was

suggested, that to the School should be annexed a small farm, which might be cultivated, either wholly or in part, by the labour of the scholars; and where they might be taught to raise, and prepare for market, articles of exportable produce, as well as to rear cattle and cultivate provisions. The state of the Society's funds obliged the Committee to direct, that this Seminary should be begun on a small scale, (though they wished it to be formed on a plan which should admit of its indefinite extension); and that, until their funds would allow of its enlargement, care should be taken that the youths, selected for education, should be of such a rank as would give them influence over their countrymen in after life.

The Committee were encouraged to appropriate to this object a large proportion of their present funds, by the information received from Sierra Leone, that several of the African youths, who had been educated in England by the Sierra Leone Company, were filling offices of trust in the Colony with credit to themselves and satisfaction to their employers.

The Committee having learnt that there are now in this country two African youths, about the age of ninteteen or twenty, who have been enjoying, by means of the Sierra Leone Company, the benefits of education for the last six or seven years, and that it was intended they should return in no long

time to Africa; resolved to take upon themselves the expence of having them fully initiated in Dr. Bell's System of Education. Measures are now taking with this view, and the Committee trust that they ſhall be able, in no long time, to transplant to Africa this cheap and expeditious method of instruction, a boon which may be productive of incalculable benefits to the inhabitants of that Continent.

The Committee have been of opinion, that the cultivation of the African soil, and a trade in the produce of that country, might be encouraged by the distribution of medals or other honorary rewards, to such persons as may distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits; but they have not, as yet specifically determined the objects to which such rewards should be applied, and the extent to which it would be proper to carry them. They have also been of opinion, that measures might be advantageously taken for engaging in America, or the West Indies, persons of good character, natives of Africa, or the descendants of Africans, who should instruct the colonists and natives in the cultivation and manufacture of indigo; in the best mode of raising and cleaning cotton, rice, and other articles of tropical culture. The proſecution of these measures must, of course, depend on the extent of the Society's funds,

In the consideration of the various articles of exportable produce, which may be cultivated with advantage in Africa, the attention of the Committee has been particularly drawn to COTTON. With the mode of raising the cotton tree the natives of the Western Coast of Africa are almost universally acquainted, although the particular species of cotton grown there, (and from which they manufacture cloth of an excellent fabric) is so unsuitable to the English market, that the price which it would obtain would not repay the expence of raising it, and conveying it to this country. As the natives of Africa, however, are already familiarized to the culture of cotton; as it requires only six or seven months from the time of sowing the seed to bring it to maturity; and as the process of preparing it for sale is short and simple: it appeared to the Committee to be a matter of great importance to introduce among them the seed of a superior species of this plant. They accordingly applied to Mr. Alderman Shaw and Mr. Alderman Prinsep, to use their good offices in procuring for them, the former from Georgia, the latter from the Brazils, a quantity of the best kinds of cotton seed; and from both these gentlemen they have received the most satisfactory promises of assistance. Subsequently to this application, a cargo of cotton, of a very excellent quality, which had not been freed from the seed,

arrived in the River Thames. Through the interference of Messrs. Hardcastle and Reyner, two zealous friends to the improvement of Africa, the purchaser of this cotton has agreed, that the seed, which is found to be in a state of perfect preservation, shall be wholly at the disposal of the Committee. A large quantity of it therefore, put up in small packages, so as to admit of its easy distribution, will be ready for transmission by the first conveyance.

By means of the same gentlemen who have favoured the Institution in this instance, a plentiful supply of seed of the best kind of cotton, though not in an equal state of preservation with that just mentioned, had been procured from a large cotton manufacturer at Manchester; and an opportunity has been taken of sending a part of it to Sierra Leone, by a vessel which left the river about a fortnight ago.

The Committee are aware, that it may be objected to this attempt to extend the cultivation of cotton, that the supply of that article is already equal to the demand; and that therefore the measures pursued by the Committee are impolitic. But they would observe in reply to this objection, that cotton is an article the growth of which in Africa will occasion less of competition with our own Colonies than almost any other article of tropical produce which could be named; and that

it is important to be preparing sources from which a supply of cotton may be drawn, should circumstances arise to interrupt our commercial relations with America, or with the other places which now furnish it. But independently of these considerations it may be presumed, that in proportion as the natives of Africa supply us with the raw material, they will be capable of paying for a larger quantity of the manufactured article.

The Committee think that it may be of use to enumerate in this place, for the information of the Subscribers, what other articles there are which Africa may be expected to furnish as a return to the British merchant for the goods he may send thither.

The first they will specify is GOLD. This precious metal is found in many parts of Africa, sometimes in small lumps, in a pure state; but for the most part it is procured by merely washing, with care, the sand taken from the bed of the river. The quantity obtained in this way, indeed, will barely pay the labour required to free it from the sand. It nevertheless proves the existence of gold mines in that country, which, it is presumed, may be found and opened, should the advancing civilization of Africa admit of that free intercourse, which would give an opportunity to European mineralogists of exploring this source of wealth.*

* See Appendix B.

IVORY has hitherto formed, next to slaves, the largest branch of African commerce, and its quantity will of course not be lessened by the new circumstances in which Africa is placed.

BEES WAX may be obtained in every part of Africa; and in some places, particularly the Rivers Gambia and Gaboon, it forms a considerable part of the present exports. It might of course be greatly encreased by encouraging the rearing of Bees.

DYE-WOODS, of various kinds, including CAM-WOOD, BARWOOD, and FUSTICK, are now exported, the two first in considerable quantities from Africa. Requiring no previous cultivation, but only to be cut down in order to be brought to market, and thus affording a present temptation to exertion, the commerce in articles of this description has not been equally affected by the Slave Trade, as the commerce in those articles which require previous culture, and the profits of which are remotely prospective. Without doubt, however, when the intercourse with the interior of Africa shall become more open and secure, not only may the trade in the Dye-Woods already specified be encreased, but other valuable Dye-Woods will probably be discovered.

Many kinds of TIMBER are likewise produced in Africa, which are supposed to be well adapted for the use of *Cabinet Makers, Inlayers*, and even

of *Shipwrights.* The importation of these is discouraged by the high duties payable on *unrated woods*, amounting at present to about £27 per Cent. ad valorem.

POTASH might also be procured from Africa: the clearing of the forests would of course supply materials for the manufacture of this useful article.

GUM SENEGA and GUM COPAL are now imported into this country from Africa, in a quantity nearly equal to the demand. Besides these, there are many other gums in Africa, which, if properly examined, might prove useful, both to our manufacturers and chemists. Gums, as was observed in the case of Dye-Woods, require no cultivation, and hardly any labour to prepare them for market.

PALM OIL, which is useful in the manufacture of soap, may be obtained in considerable quantities.

INDIGO grows wild in almost every part of the African Coast, and might therefore easily be brought into cultivation. Almost all the Indigo which is now consumed in Europe, is imported from the East Indies, under the disadvantages of a voyage more than thrice as long as that from Africa. Besides the Indigo, there is another plant which the natives use as a blue dye, which appears to impart

a more indelible colour, and which, should it ſtand the test of experiment, might also be cultivated.

RICE forms the principal food of the Africans, and might doubtless become an article of export, for the supply of the West Indies and Europe.

Several varieties of the COFFEE, one of a kind not inferior, it is supposed, to the Mocha, are found growing wild in the mountains of Sierra Leone. The cultivation of this article has been begun at that Colony, and promises to succeed. It may thence be extended to every part of the continent.

SUGAR CANE of an excellent quality grows with hardly any culture, in many parts of Africa, The Committee do not recommend this, at the present moment, as an article to be cultivated with a view to exportation. Still its existence, and luxuriant growth, serve to shew what are the capabilities of that country.

MALAGUETTA PEPPER, an article in considerable demand, grows wild in great abundance on the windward coast.

A variety of other SPICERIES, including the CAYENNE, GINGER, CUBEBS, CARDAMUMS, species of NUTMEG, and CINNAMON, are found in Africa, and might be cultivated with advantage.

CASTOR OIL, MUSK, and various other DRUGS* might also be brought thence, together with the

DIAN ARROW ROOT, TAPIOCA and SAGO,

* See Appendix C.

TOBACCO is cultivated on a small scale, in various parts of Africa, and might, if it were desirable, be cultivated still more extensively.

A few HIDES are now imported from the River Gambia: the number will doubtless encrease, as cattle can be more securely reared.

SPONGE may also be procured thence.

But besides the articles above enumerated, as already existing in Africa, there are others of a very valuable kind, such as OPIUM, which might easily be transported thither. The COCHINEAL and the SILK WORM might also be reared there. In short, it may be said that there are no articles, produced between the tropics, which may not be naturalized in that part of Western Africa, which has hitherto been the theatre of the Slave Trade.

It is hardly necessary to add, that all the different fruits, esculent roots, and grain, which grow in other tropical countries, are raised there; such as Cocoa Nuts, Limes, Lemons, Oranges, Plantanes, Bananas, Papaws, Guavas, Melons, Pine Apples, Cashew Nuts, Tamarinds, Pumpkins, Yams, Cassada, Eddoes, Indian Corn, Millet, &c. Few of the fruits which have been mentioned, however, could be made to form any part of a return cargo, on account of the length of the voyage, except in the shape of pickles or preserves.

The Committee have omitted to mention several articles, which, though they may afford advan-

tageous modes of employing the labour of Africa, yet will not furnish an export to Europe; such as SALT, which is now manufactured to a small extent on the Sea Coast, (for the purpose of supplying the interior where it is in high demand,) and the quantity of which might be much enlarged; and the fruit of the COLA Tree, so famed for its tonic qualities, as to be carried by the Satees or travelling merchants, from the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, to every part of the Continent, even to Egypt and Abyssinia.

Notwithstanding the encouraging detail which has now been given, it may perhaps be objected, that the hope of creating any considerable trade in the productions of Africa is proved to be delusive by past experience. "If the capabilities of that quarter of the globe," it may be said, "are such as they have been represented to be, what has prevented the developement of them during the long period which has elapsed since the commencement of our intercourse with it; and particularly as of late the efforts of the Sierra Leone Company have been directed to that object?" The grand obstacle most unquestionably has been—the Trade in Slaves. It is this, which, by destroying the security both of person and property in every part of Africa, beyond the narrow limits of the Colony of Sierra Leone; by polluting the sources of justice; by not only exciting wars between nations, but raising

the arm of every man against his neighbour; has paralysed every effort of prospective industry, and repressed even the desire of cultivating more than was wanted for immediate subsistance. The truth of this statement is very strikingly exemplified in a letter received during the last year from Governor Ludlam, in which that gentleman gives an account of the baneful effects of the Slave Trade witnessed by himself, in the country on the banks of the river Sherbro, about one hundred miles to the southward of Sierra Leone.

—"Thus," he says, "has this fertile country been rendered a desert, and its trade, which when you knew it, was so extensive, been almost annihilated. What its population was at that time I have no means of judging, but it must have been considerable. I speak however within compass when I say, that some thousands of square miles are now without an inhabitant. In this extent is included some of the richest land on the Windward Coast. I have never heard a place pointed out which equalled Boom in fertility. Mr. Taylor told me that he never saw finer sugar cane in the West Indies, than grows wild in Bagroo. And as for the interior country behind the Sherbro, it must also be rich from the quantity of rice and cotton cloth they bring down." Mr. Ludlam's details of the horrid practices which had led to the desolation he describes will be found in the

Appendix.* And let it be remembered, that while in England we have been rejoicing, for the last twelve months, in having passed a law for the abolition of the Slave Trade, Africa has continued until the present year to endure all the evils of that Trade, aggravated by the eager competition of the Slave Traders on the eve of its termination. An extract of a private letter written by Governor Ludlam in November last, will give a faint idea of the enormities and miseries which prevailed in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone at that period.

"The influence of ————, in ————, seems to be supreme. Not long since he engaged with other chiefs in the neighbourhood, to make war suddenly on a few small towns. I do not find that any dispute previously existed. H————, who bought most of the slaves, said plainly, it was made merely to enable the chiefs to pay their debts. ———— appears to have been the leader, and to have outwitted his own allies. Marching with a chosen body a few hours before the time, he came unawares on the chief town, and seized all the inhabitants without firing a shot. Having thus obtained the youngest and best of the booty, and killed one or two old people in the first bustle, he is said to have turned adrift those who were unsaleable, and then, in conjunction with his allies, to have taken three other towns. Part of the

* See Appendix D.

younger and more active people escaped from these, having been alarmed by ——'s first assault; but on the whole, said H————, 'they caught a pretty good lot.'

"The war in Rokelle is suspended: all parties seem to have been too busy in *Trade* to think of regular war. The same is the case in Sherbro. In both places they are catching each other openly and secretly, and on all manner of pretences; but not fighting.

"I believe however that more money will be lost than gained in the Slave Trade this year. Most of those who did not go off very early, have met with many difficulties in obtaining their Slaves, and provisions sufficient to carry them off. They have also suffered much in their crews, officers as well as men.

"Several Vessels are reported to have been lost or cut off, chiefly to Leeward; and several insurrections have happened. The reason is said to be, that a great number of Beach-men,* and Grumettas† have been sent off, in consequence of the unusual demand for slaves."

* This is the name given to the persons, residing on the Coast, who act as interpreters to the Captains of Ships, and assist them in condcting their trade.

† Or domestic servants. These have always been considered as not liable to be sold, unless when convicted of crimes to which the crime of Slavery is attached.

In such a dreadful state of society as is here exhibited, what success could rationally be expected in any attempt to promote agriculture or legitimate commerce? The attempt was obviously hopeless. And even if there existed no other assignable cause for the small progress made by the Sierra Leone Company, in meliorating the condition of Africa, the account now given seems to furnish a satisfactory solution of it.

The Committee, however, are desirous of cautioning the Subscribers against expecting any very great effects to be immediately produced, even by the cessation of the Slave Trade. Africa, exhausted by the expiring struggles of that ruinous traffick, may for a time be incapable of much exertion in other directions. On the coast especially, where the operations of the Society must commence, the population is so greatly thinned, by the excessive demands which have been made upon it, as to place very considerable difficulties in the way of the general diffusion of knowledge, and the general excitment of industry. Large districts in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, which, ten years ago, were comparatively populous, are now reduced to wastes, with hardly a trace of their former culture. And if an estimate were to be made of the existing population, for about seventy or eighty miles inland, on that district of coast which extends from the Rio Grande to Cape Palmas, with the exception of one state where some degree of se-

curity and improvement is enjoyed in consequence of the adoption of the Mahomedan code, the average amount would probably be found to be less than seven persons to a square mile.

These facts, at the same time, are not of a nature which ought to have any effect in discouraging the exertions of the Society: on the contrary, by displaying the magnitude of that work of beneficence and mercy in which it is engaged, they ought rather to redouble those exertions. The difficulties are great, but by no means insuperable. Though the coast has been so greatly depopulated, yet the African continent is still possessed of an immense population. If security be given to the Coast, and encouragements held out to industry, the waste will soon be reanimated with new life. Labourers will migrate to the spot where their persons will be safe, and their labour productive. Men of commercial enterprize will be attracted to the points where the manufactures of Europe may be safely bartered for the productions of Africa; and the benefits of industrious occupation, of a fair and legitimate commerce, of order, justice, and security, being once felt, they cannot fail to be duly appreciated and widely diffused. *

But how, it will be asked, is that security which is the parent of industry, and of all those blessings which attend industry, to be attained? This is a subject which has occupied the attention of the

* See Appendix E.

Committee, and on which individual members of their body have faoured them with valuable suggestions; but as yet it is one on which they are not prepared fully to enter. They will at present advert only to a single point connected with it.

One great, it may be almost said, indispensable step to the attainment of the security here spoken of would be, to induce the other nations of the earth to follow the example which has been set them by Great-Britain and America, and to relinquish the Trade in Slaves. It cannot be denied that much of the success of any plan, which may be devised with a view to the improvement of Africa, will depend on the degree in which that trade is generally suppressed. At present, indeed, the Portugueze settled at Brazil are the only persons at liberty to carry it on. Whether they can be prevailed upon to abandon it, and whether any measures can be taken effectually to prevent British capital from swelling the negro population, and enlarging the cultivation, of South America, at the expence of the protracted misery of the African continent and the eventual ruin of our own Colonies; are questions which the Committee will not now discuss. It may however be possible to induce the government of Brazil, if not wholly to abandon the Slave Trade, yet to confine it within certain limits, by forbidding the supply of any Colony belonging to a foreign nation, and by restraining their traders to the eastern Coast of

Africa, or at least to that coast and the coast of Angola. This may be the more practicable, since, with the exception of not quite a thousand Slaves, which have been annually taken by the Portugueze from their settlement of Bissao at the mouth of the Rio Grande, their Slave Trade is, in point of fact, already confined within the limits which have been specified. And, should the Portugueze agree to this restriction, the African Coast, from the 20th degree of North Latitude to the 4th or 5th degree of South Latitude, an extent of about 2300 miles, would be entirely free from the European Slave Trade, at least during the continuance of the present war.

But, supposing this object to be attained, it must still require the utmost efforts, on the part of the friends of Africa, so to improve the present crisis, as that on the termination of the war, those powers, who may wish to resume the Slave Trade, may find the Africans so much enlightened with respect to their true interests as to be proof against its temptations. Under these circumstances it seems unnecessary to endeavour to impress on the Subscribers, how very urgent is the call for exertion; and, with a view to that exertion, how important it is that funds should be provided for giving effect to the beneficial designs of the Institution.

The Committee, before they close their Report, will briefly advert to the measures which have

been adopted, or are now taking by Government, with respect to Africa; for although these measures do not fall within the scope of the Society's deliberations, they may in their consequences very materially advance its general objects.

Two ships of war were sent out to the coast in the month of November, with instructions to their Commanders to prevent the infraction of the law for abolishing the Slave Trade, and to take every opportunity which might occur of reconciling the African Chiefs, (who, it must be remembered, have very generally been Traders in Slaves), to this measure, and of explaining to them its beneficial tendency.

A commission, consisting of three gentlemen, two of whom possess considerable local knowledge, has also been appointed, and will proceed in a few months to the Coast of Africa, for the purpose of minutely investigating the state of the different British settlements, and pointing out in what manner they may be made subservient to the great object of African civilization.

Much important information may also be expected from them respecting the capabilities of Africa in general and the condition of her inhabitants, and the best means of improving both, to the mutual advantage of that Continent and of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Government has further resolved to appoint a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Sierra

Leone, for the purpose of giving more complete effect to the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade. The appointment of such a judicature is particularly desirable at the present moment, as otherwise all the vessels which may be seized under the Abolition Act must be carried to the West-Indies for adjudication; a course which would be attended with a cruel protraction of the confinement on ship-board of the captured Slaves. At Sierra Leone it will also be much easier than it would be in the West Indies, to dispose of these persons, agreeably to the humane provisions of the Act of Parliament. The system of free labour being already established at Sierra Leone, the introduction of any number of Negroes into that Colony, whether on the footing of free labourers or as apprentices for a limited period, could be attended with none of those inconveniences which, it is alleged, would flow from it in our West-India islands, and which, as the Committee understand, are deemed to be so considerable, as to make it a question whether many of the persons already liberated in the West-Indies under the operation of the Abolition Act shall not be sent back to Sierra Leone. A better chance will also be thus afforded for restoring some of the captured Slaves to their former connections; and some of them, after having enjoyed the advantage of instruction in agriculture and in other useful arts at the Colony, may possibly be beneficially employed in disseminating, in other

parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired.

The Subscribers will readily perceive that a very wide field is here opened for their benevolent exertions; nor can the Committee contemplate it without an ardent desire that the funds of the Institution may be so enlarged, as to enable them to embrace the opportunity which will in that case be afforded them, of conferring a signal benefit on Africa.

It now only remains for the Committee to lay before the Subscribers the state of the Society's Funds.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amount of Subscriptions and Donations.... | £2976 | 2 | 7 |
| Expence of Printing and circulating the Reports, &c. advertising Meetings, hire of Rooms for Meetings, Collector's Commission, Stationery, and other incidental charges to this time ..... | 494 | 2 | 9 |
| | £2481 | 19 | 10 |

# APPENDIX.

## A.

*Hints respecting the means of civilizing Africa; submitted to the consideration of the Committee by a Member of the Institution.*

"THE great bar to the civilization of AFRICA is now removed, by the abolition of a traffic, which has hitherto shut her out from improvement by a barrier more insuperable than the mountains of Atlas or the sands of Zaara. Her intercourse, therefore, with cultivated nations, will, it may be hoped, hereafter become the channel through which her thirsty land may receive those streams of plenty which are spread so largely over happier regions; and Africa enjoy at last, "in the evening of her days," "the benefits of knowledge, and the blessings of religion." How those benefits and blessings may most certainly and most quickly be communicated, is a problem which well deserves the attention of the greatest masters of political science. A profound knowledge of general principles, as well as an intimate acquaintance with details, are undoubtedly required for its solution. A large investigation of the question is not intended; but a few cursory, and rather obvious remarks on this subject, cannot be uninteresting. The following speculations, however, must be understood only as hints for a general "projet," without insinuating any minute enquiries into the practical

difficulties which may oppose its execution. The first advance to excellence is to conceive greatly, and though it may prove impossible to effect all that seems desirable, still it is of great importance to establish a standard, to know what we pursue, and when we deviate.

" The Act lately passed in this country will, at least during the war (if the cession of Biasso * can be obtained from the Portugueze, and that nation can be induced to confine its Slave Trade within the line of its present operation) liberate a range of country from the ravages of the Slave Trade, extending from Cape Verd, in latitude 15 North, to Congo, in latitude 6 South. This is the field in which our beneficence may profitably display itself, for to this vast territory we have sufficient access. It is filled, to the distance of 100 or 150 miles into the interior, with a great number of petty principalities under the government of their several chieftains, who may for the most part be considered as absolute. Many of these little states are independent of each other; while some are bound together by a loose federal union under a nominal head; a powerful vassal however paying little attention to the sovereignty of his leige lord. They can hardly be said to be controuled by any system of international law, or general policy; nor are they subjected to the jurisdiction of a legislative, or even of any regular judicial council. Their law is strength, and their strength men. Their territorial limits are ill defined, the rights of succession ill settled. The passions and caprices of their chiefs are uncheked by the power of privileged orders or national assemblies. The Slave Trade has nursed them for centuries in habits of violence and

* Biassao is a small island at the mouth of the Rio Grande, and is the only settlement possessed by the Portugueze on the Windward Coast of Africa.

insecurity; and the acts of mutual aggression, which the temptations afforded by that traffic have occasioned, remain deeply imprinted on the memories both of chiefs and people—the seeds of eternal hostility thick sown in minds exasperated with the sense of injuries received and inflicted. A state of society more miserably dismembered, and in which the elements seem less capable of combination, can scarcely be imagined. Europe might be re-barbarized before Africa could civilize herself. On the other hand, the whole of this extensive track is washed by the ocean, and is therefore easily accessible from every quarter; the soil is rich, and capable of furnishing all those tropical fruits which are so largely consumed in the rich empires of Europe; and a vast multitude of rivers entering almost every part of this territory, and connecting the whole of that maritime belt now described with the sea, supply great facilities, both for the production and conveyance of those commodities which may hereafter constitute the surplus wealth of this quarter of the globe. In short it would be difficult to determine, whether the physical advantages or moral impediments to the civilization of Africa be the greater.

"Happily, however, man possesses more absolute dominion over moral than over physical causes; and it remains for us to pay back to Africa some part of that enormous debt which has been accumulating against us. Great Britain possesses several establishments on the windward coast, and a considerable number of forts or factories (for in such a traffic as the Slave Trade, forts and factories are synonimous) scattered along the line of coast which lies between Cape Three Points and Benin; while no other nation at present possesses any establishment in that quarter; if we except the French fort of Senegal, at the northern extremity of the windward coast, the small Portugueze colony of Bissao, and two or three

Dutch forts now wholly at our mercy. The British forts on the Gold coast are at present in the hands of the African Company, and it is needless to say to what purposes they have been hitherto applied. The expence however incident to these settlements has long been defrayed out of the public purse; and the African Company, (which is a regulated body, founded by the act of 1750 on the ruins of an old exclusive company), is merely the channel through which these supplies are distributed. The first step then which seems desirable is, to obtain a surrender of all those settlements; if possible also the surrender of Bassao to the crown of Great Britain. The second is to consolidate the whole under one government, and to constitute a presidency. Whether the great objects to be embraced in this establishment can conveniently be left to form part of the details of our colonial office, it is the province of others to decide. This system of consolidation is requisite in the present case for the same reasons which render it generally desirable. Unity and consistency of design cannot otherwise be secured, and these are necessary upon a principle of economy, to prevent a great waste of time, stock, and labour.

"The next question which presents itself is much more intricate and extended. What are the means to be adopted for reclaiming Africa from her present unsocial state, and preventing or diminishing the evils which must spring from a consitution of things, such as has been above described? The first and most obvious measure is, by all possible means to encourage internal industry; and, happily, there are circumstances which, even in that ill-settled state of society, seem favourable to the attempt. The African chieftains are in a great degree absolute; and they are so numerous, that they bear perhaps nearly the same proportion to the general population, as the higher classes in Great Britain to the mass of the nation.

A large part of their dependents are in a state of servitude; that is, though possessed by the customs of Africa of many civil rights, their labour to a certain extent is the property of their masters. Hitherto this labour has been of little value. Every chieftain was a Slave-factor, and men being the only export article, his subjects were valuable to him only as they furnished the means of *panyaring* his neighbours, or were themselves, in default of other resources, objects of legal conviction for witchcraft, which made not only the convict but his family liable to sale. These chiefs however retain a strong taste for the various articles of merchandize which they have been accustomed to purchase from Europeans, and will doubtless be willing to continue the commerce in those articles. This the labour of their vassals may enable them to effect. Let every encouragement then be given by this country to the raising of those articles in Africa, which will find a demand in our markets. For this purpose instruction must be highly useful, and to promote the same end there can be no objection to such Custom-House regulations in the way of bounties, drawbacks, &c. as may serve to stimulate exertion in Africa. The disadvantages under which their competition with other tropical countries is commenced, may render such measures necessary; and Great Britain ought not to regret some expence, where blessings so great may be bestowed, where injuries so aggravated are to be recompensed.

" 2. The export wealth of Africa it is evident must be chiefly agricultural. Her soil and climate are fitted for the culture of fruits which no art can raise cheaply in our northern latitudes, and with these she may be able to supply us; while in manufactured articles, our advantages of capital and skilled industry are so enormous, as to render her rivalry hopeless. At the same time it is of first rate importance, that encouragement should be given to her

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"There yet remains one great question to be examined.* Shall Great Britain rigidly confine herself to the factories now in her possession, and act on the surrounding principalities only by influence; or shall she accept the submission of such neighbouring states as may be willing to adopt her patronage? The advantages and disadvantages of either alternative are so numerous, that merely a sketch of the general arguments can be given, without attempting a decision. Two things however must be premised: first, that nothing like a project of encroachment can for a moment be listened to; and secondly, that the question ought to be considered as referring principally to the benefit of Africa.

"Considering the present state of Africa, and the authority of Europeans in that quarter, it is probable that a considerable number of the little states in the neighbourhood of our factories, would willingly place themselves under our protection. At Sherbro' the sovereignty of the King of Great Britain is at this moment recognized, and the administration of justice among the natives has long been possessed by the governors of our castles on the Gold Coast. The facilities which the adoption of that system would furnish are obvious and important. All the institutions above noticed as necessary for the civilization of Africa would then become, in a great degree, matters of mere regulation. Our customs, manners, and opinions, would spread rapidly, from the power of example, which always acts downwards with the greatest

* The obligation of extending Christianity in Africa, and the beneficial effects likely to be produced by its extension, are omitted in this discussion, as they are points which do not come immediately under the Society's consideration. Indeed the whole of the discussion that follows might have been omitted on the same grounds; and also as containing views of policy, which in themselves are extremely questionable.

# APPENDIX.

## A.

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manufactories for home consumption. The Africans may go on purchasing daily by their field industry more and more European luxuries, yet remain nearly as barbarous and as ignorant as ever; but if they can be taught to desire decent apparel, and comfortable habitations, innumerable blessings will spring up from these humble shoots. Habits of domestic virtue, order, and happiness, habits of self-estimation, a sense of character and propriety, a desire of knowledge, prospective industry, and all the lovely family of social charities which peace and contentment engender, will gradually be diffused. To this end it seems very desirable that they should be instructed without delay in some of the most useful arts and simplest machinery known among us. Much may be done in this department by the aid of schools; but perhaps still more may be effected by the activity of British settlers. Example works more rapidly than precept on all who are quick to perceive, but slow to reason; and such are children and uncultivated nations. An African will discern characters as accutely as an Englishman, while much labour is required to make him comprehend a logical proposition. At least it is easy to supply them with specimens of the most useful mechanical contrivances.

"3. One of the first steps towards the civilization of a rude people is to provide for general security; and in the state of society at present subsisting in Africa, such provision is indispensable. It is difficult to speculate at a distance on the best means of effecting this object; yet it is to be hoped that it may be possible gradually to establish, in different quarters, some description of federal court or council, whose jurisdiction may extend to the adjustment of all national rights and differences. Such institutions have, under various shapes, existed in most countries, where a number of small principalities, either rightfully or practically independent, have been crowded together.

Such was the great council of the Amphyctions among the Greeks; such probably in their original constitutions were the Cortes of Spain, the assemblies of the states, held annually under the earlier monarchs in France, and the parliament of England; such in former ages was the secret tribunal of Germany, and the Imperial Chamber in later days. Among many of the negro chiefs, as has been already said, an imperfect federal union subsists; a nominal sovereign is recognized, and palavers are held, in which complaints are presented and redressed. Here then are at least the elements of such establishments as are recommended. Their natures, forms, and the limits of their several jurisdictions, it would be idle to sketch in theory. Practical institutions must be governed by existing circumstances. But the benefits which would flow from the recognition of such judicatories are ovbious, nor does there appear sufficient reason to suppose our influence inadequate to effecting their foundation.

"4. The propriety of establishing schools and other seminaries of instruction as extensively as possible, will not be disputed. This measure, therefore, may be assumed to be necessary, and its details are too numerous for this paper. It may be observed, however, that the success of our schemes will naturally depend on the conduct of these little nurseries of knowledge; for the young are much better subjects for civilization than the old, and with due care the next generation may be as far removed above the present in general improvement, as they will themselves probably still remain below their European instructors. The Mahometans owe the ascendency which they have acquired, and are daily acquiring, over the native princes of Africa, principally to their exertions in this line. Shall Christians be less active?"

"There yet remains one great question to be examined.* Shall Great Britain rigidly confine herself to the factories now in her possession, and act on the surrounding principalities only by influence; or shall she accept the submission of such neighbouring states as may be willing to adopt her patronage? The advantages and disadvantages of either alternative are so numerous, that merely a sketch of the general arguments can be given, without attempting a decision. Two things however must be premised: first, that nothing like a project of encroachment can for a moment be listened to; and secondly, that the question ought to be considered as referring principally to the benefit of Africa.

"Considering the present state of Africa, and the authority of Europeans in that quarter, it is probable that a considerable number of the little states in the neighbourhood of our factories, would willingly place themselves under our protection. At Sherbro' the sovereignty of the King of Great Britain is at this moment recognized, and the administration of justice among the natives has long been possessed by the governors of our castles on the Gold Coast. The facilities which the adoption of that system would furnish are obvious and important. All the institutions above noticed as necessary for the civilization of Africa would then become, in a great degree, matters of mere regulation. Our customs, manners, and opinions, would spread rapidly, from the power of example, which always acts downwards with the greatest

* The obligation of extending Christianity in Africa, and the beneficial effects likely to be produced by its extension, are omitted in this discussion, as they are points which do not come immediately under the Society's consideration. Indeed the whole of the discussion that follows might have been omitted on the same grounds; and also as containing views of policy, which in themselves are extremely questionable.

force. The pure administration of justice would secure private property, and national rights be protected, without an appeal to arms, by the authority of British arbitration. But the greatest advantage, and that alone which renders the question in any degree disputable, is this: the extension of our territorial rights might prevent the future revival of the Slave Trade, by rendering such an attempt on the part of France or Holland impossible, without trenching on our authority, and furnishing thereby grounds of war. There undoubtedly is reason to fear, lest this odious traffic should, at the conclusion of the present war, once more ravage this devoted continent, if not then found reposing under the shade and shelter of the British empire. On the other hand, the attendant evils are of no common magnitude. Supposing even (what we must be very sanguine to expect) that, in the assumption of sovereignty over the native princes, Great Britain should always act with scrupulous equity, merely accepting, and never exacting, still the inconveniences must be great. Those princes, though willing to recognize our national control, will certainly not be willing to relinquish the internal authority which they now possess within their respective dominions, and the evils flowing from such a constitution of things are very great, though not very obvious. The existence too of a disposition in the British government, so liable to misconception, will probably give birth to apprehensions and jealousies, which, if we would benefit Africa, it is our duty by all possible methods to allay; nor would a satisfactory reply be easily found, should it hereafter be said that the princes of Africa had been robbed of their independence, and the people of their liberty, while too ignorant to understand the value of the privileges they surrendered. But the most alarming evil incident to such a system is, that it holds out a lure to injustice, too strong perhaps for the

political virtue of any nation; and when the vast strides which our ambition has made in the East, under the plausible pretexts of consulting at once the happiness of the native principalities, and the safety of our own establishments, are considered, a fear may well be entertained lest the existence of similar temptations in another continent should lead to similar enormities. At the same time it is fair to state the reasons which make it probable, that even under circumstances in some respects similar, Africa would not witness a repetition of those crimes which have disgraced us during two centuries in the East. That continent is much nearer to the mother country, and the transactions of our government there being in consequence more immediately under inspection, its members will feel a stronger dread of responsibility. The princes of Africa are poor, her cities hamlets, her palaces huts. That the wealth of Asia should be irresistibly attractive to European adventurers can excite no surprise; but here ambition will find fewer allurements, and avarice none. It cannot be denied that exclusive companies are very favourable to both the encouragement and shelter of delinquency, and much of our ancient maladministration in India may justly be imputed to this cause. The direction of our African establishments, however, being committed to the crown, will of course be regularly subjected to Parliamentary investigation. And, last though not least, this country is now become so wakeful to all her interests, foreign as well as domestic, the number of our political citizens so large, and general opinion so powerful, that neither public nor private rapacity are likely to escape without correction. These are some of the arguments which bear on this question. Its determination must be left to those who are willing to speculate, and bound to decide."

# B

"UNDOUBTEDLY all the inland countries in Guinea abound with gold mines; and though the natives are not artists enough to know when or how to follow a vein, yet they find great quantities of gold in several of their mines, which are all so sacred to them, that they will not permit any European miner either to see their mines or to search for others; nevertheless they bring down good store of what they find to the sea coast to traffic withal. Besides which, the natives near the sea have another way of finding gold, as thus: in the rainy seasons, after a wet night, the sea shore is generally covered with people, mostly women, each having a couple of bowls or platters made of callabashes; the largest of which they fill with earth and sand, such as is driven down from the mountains by violent floods in the rivers and brooks, &c. This they wash with many waters, by often turning the bowl round, till it washes over the brims. The gold, if any, sinks to the bottom, by reason of its weight; and thus they continue till they have washed it all away, except two or three spoonfuls of the bottom, which they carefully take out and lay by in the small bowl; they then fill their platter again, and so wash on till about noon. By that time the small bowl is pretty well filled with the dregs, which they carry home and search diligently. Sometimes they find a shilling's worth, sometimes but two penny worth, sometimes two crowns worth, and very often no gold at all." Smith's Voyage to Guinea, p. 138, 139.

# C

THE second volume of Dr. Winterbottom's valuable work entitled, "An Account of the Native Africans in the Neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, to which is added, an Account of the present state of Medicine among them," (sold by Hatchard), contains much important information on the subject of the medicinal plants which are found growing in Africa. Among others he mentions the bark of a large tree called by the Foolas *Bellenda*, and by the Susoos and Mandingos *Bembee*, and which is used in Africa with great success in epedemic dysenteries. He adds that, "in several instances of diarrhœa it shewed itself very effectual. After my arrival in London, I gave some of it to my friend Dr. Willan, who made trial of it in agues, fevers, sore throat, and dysentery, very much to his satisfaction." Vol. II. p. 46.

In the Appendix to the same volume, (No. ii.) Dr. Winterbottom details a number of cases in which this bark proved efficacious. He thus closes his account:

"Dr. Clark has exhibited the African bark in the infirmary at Newcastle, with complete success in several cases of intermittents, and coincides with Dr. Willan and Dr. Cappe, in thinking it a valuable accession to the Materia Medica. The high price of Peruvian bark, the uncertainty of obtaining a constant and regular supply of it during the time of war, and the schemes of interested men to enhance its value and lower its quality, render it an object of importance for us to increase the number of substitutes. The *Bellenda* appears worthy of being ranked in this class: though the cases adduced in its favour are too few for any strong inferrences to be drawn, yet the recommendation of physicians eminent in their

profession, and possessing such a share of public esteem, must excite others to further trials with this bark, when a sufficient quantity of it is imported."

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## D

### *Extract from a Letter of Governor* LUDLAM, *dated at Sierra Leone,* 29th *October,* 180[illegible]

"THE ruin of this country (the Sherbro) is however but partially to be ascribed to the *present* war. The system on which the Native Chiefs seem uniformly to act, has a natural tendency to poverty and depopulation. They live by the Slave Trade, the more active by carrying it on, the more indolent by what they extort from the Traders; occasionally selling one of their own people, or an unprotected stranger, to help them out of their pecuniary difficulties. All this discourages cultivation. The industrious find out a quicker way to wealth: the indolent an easier way to live. What I have said applies principally to the chiefs. But the same system discourages still more the industry of the people. The Chief is prompted by his indolence and necessities, to keep but few domestics, (in other words he sells as many as he can) and these few are little looked after. His plantations therefore are small, and he is always poor. Should an industrious Freeman under him get rich, his own superiority would be lost. He must keep all his people as poor as himself; and therefore must bring a *Palaver* against every aspiring subject, sieze the little property he has collected, and perhaps sell himself. Though the Chief will

not rise he must keep others down. I was about to note down some particular instances in proof of this, but I found it so generally known and acknowledged among the Traders residing in the country that I thought it superfluous. One of them told me, that for some reason the quantity of ground which any one is permitted to plant is closely limited. The country is thus systematically kept poor, and the influence of the Traders, especially such as join the character of a native Chief to that of an active Trader, is proportionably encreased. The number of domestic Slaves belonging to one of the latter description is great, and both Slaves and Freemen are attached to him in consequence of his ability to supply them with all necessaries, and to support him right or wrong against all who would injure or punish them. At their head, he can domineer over any of the petty Chiefs with their two or three dozens of subjects; he can make war upon them, or force them to make war upon others.

" War, as carried on by the Natives, depopulates the country in an extraordinary degree. To give no quarter to an enemy, or to put to death prisoners taken in the field, would doubtless reduce their number: but men, and men in arms, would be the only sufferers; and the slaughter of an army would tend to put an end to the war. In Africa, however, war is made equally on men, women, and children: those who are unable to lift a weapon are as much its victims as those who carry a musket, and a Chief can never want funds for carrying on a war so long as his enemy has abundance of people. I believe that C———— would never have been able to recommence the war had it not been for the lure held out, of the great number of Captives who would easily be taken. Much as T———— has suffered in the war, he is said not to have sold less than 400 Slaves for his own share."

Another source of depopulation is, that for every offence a man is lost to the community; too commonly his whole family also. Whoever carries on trade finds abundance of Europeans ready to advance any goods he may want, and to take off his Slaves. The only question is, how he shall get Slaves. It is obvious that his interest is to encrease the commission of crimes, even if he do not seek to obtain Slaves by committing the deepest crimes himself.* In a short time the creditor becomes pressing for a part of his due, but the trader is indolent, or *the path is stopped* (meaning that access to the interior from which Slaves are obtained is prevented) or he has wasted his money. A domestic Slave, a dependant, or a near relation has been given on first receiving the loan, under the name of *pawn*, but being unredeemed in due time is sold. If no unprotected persons can be kidnapped, nor a sufficient number caught by means similar to those mentioned in the note below, the relations and domestics of the debtor must be seized, and frequently all the people of a town may be sent on board a Slave ship for one man's debt; but the debtor himself is seldom or never meddled with.

* I was one day detained very long at P———, and on enquiring the reason, an old man was pointed out, who had sat long with me in C———'s house, concerning whom the Chiefs were then talking a *Palaver*. His name was ———. He is said to have made a practice through life of seeking out a great number of the finest women in the country for his wives, and by their means entrapping the men in his neighbourhood, especially young ones whom he hires from various parts of the country as Grumettas. He had now overstepped the limits of African law with regard to some young men of powerful families whom he had sold. Or rather, I believe, these powerful families could not suffer so infamous and well known a practice, though consistent with the letter of the law, to injure their own relations. I did not learn the result, but from his influence with C——— there is no doubt he escaped punishment, though he would be obliged to surrender his prey.

"A belief in *Witchcraft*, and trials by *Red-water*, are carried here to a greater extent than even in the adjacent countries. No one is ignorant that the Natives believe every death to be occasioned by magical influence, under whatever form of sickness or accident the cause of death may appear to the unilluminated eyes of an European. The Bulloms carry this belief practically to such an extent as often to break every tie of natural affection. Those who have been most under the influence of such superstitious fears, and have therefore subjected the greatest numbers to the *Red-water Ordeal*, are generally accused in their turn, and often by one of their own family. Of this I heard numerous instances, especially in D—— T——'s family. K—— found even so intelligent a man as T—— himself one day about to give red-water to his father's sister. With much difficulty he and another trader prevailed on him to desist. And the abhorrence of the offence (viz. witchcraft) is such that death itself is almost to be preferred to living under the imputation of such a crime. None seem to prejudge and detest the offender more than those of his own household. Before I left P— P——, H—— (a Chief) sent me a message requesting me, should I succeed in re-establishing peace, to use my utmost efforts to abolish the red-water. He had himself seen King S—— kill six persons in one morning with it; and an equal number out of the families of the victims were immediately sold. A very respectable man being accused, neither money nor solicitation could save him from death by the red-water; and his whole family consisting of eight persons was immediately sold. C——— assured me, that in one way or other, in ordinary times, two-thirds of those who were sent off that part of the Coast were sold for witchcraft."

# E

It seems important to remark in this place, that the hope of establishing an extensive and increasing trade with Africa, a trade which may compensate to this country much of that injury which our commerce has sustained from the hostile edicts of the French government, is far from being visionary. The exports from this country to the island of St. Domingo during the last year are supposed to have amounted to no less a sum than £1,200,000. Now the total value of the merchandize exported from this country in any one year, for the purpose of carrying on the African Slave Trade, even according to the statements of the advocates of that trade, never exceeded this sum, and generally fell below it. The island of St. Domingo therefore, containing a population of less than half a million, already consumes more of our merchandize, than was consumed, during the continuance of the Slave Trade, by the whole of Western Africa, containing a population of at least one hundred times that number. May it not hence be fairly presumed, that if some pains are taken to excite, and properly to direct, the industry of Africa, a trade may soon be created with that country, which shall call for a quantity of our manufactures not only equal, but greatly superior, to the utmost demands of the Slave Trade. If a community of 4 or 500,000 negroes in St. Domingo, recently emancipated from the yoke of slavery, and still distracted by internal commotions, can furnish a valuable return for so large an amount of merchandize as is now sent thither, can it be believed, when we consider the immense capabilities of Africa, that the fifty millions of negroes, to whom we now may have access from its

Western shore, will not, in a short time, be able to take off our hands a much larger amount than this? This view of the subject, it is hoped, will have its due weight on the minds of those who have an interest in the extension of our trade and manufactures.

## F

THE ARABIC language has been extended, by means of the Mahommedans, over a large part of the Western Coast of Africa. The knowledge of this language, by British subjects resident on the coast, would greatly tend to facilitate our intercourse with the interior, while it would afford a ready means of spreading useful knowledge throughout Africa. Tracts printed in Arabic would be eagerly read there, and might be dispersed to the farthest extremity of the Continent. It is therefore highly important that the Institution should encourage the cultivation of Arabic literature at Sierra Leone. The salary of a teacher of Arabic will not be a great burden upon the funds of the Society, as a native, competently qualified for that office, may be obtained at a moderate rate. The business of the teacher will be to instruct such Europeans and others, in the Arabic tongue, as may be placed under his tuition by persons receiving authority for that purpose from the Directors; and the diligence of the scholars may be quickened by periodical examinations, at which extaordinary proficiency may be distinguished by honorary rewards.

The SUSOO language is spoken very generally on the coast for about one hundred and fifty miles to the Northward of Sierra Leone. It is also understood by a great part of the Foulah and Mandingo nations, and is the vernacular tongue of the country of Jalonkadoo, a large

kingdom, in the mountains of which the Niger is represented as taking its rise. It would not therefore be too large a calculation to suppose, that it is spoken over a space of eight hundred or a thousand miles square; a space considerably larger than Great Britain. This language, which is remarkably simple and easy of acquisition, has been reduced to writing by the zeal of Mr. Brunton, who resided for some time as a missionary among the Susoos, and who was assisted in his task by some Susoo youths who had been brought over to England for education, and have since returned to Africa. The fruit of Mr. Brunton's labours is a Susoo Grammar and Vocabulary, and several Susoo Tracts, all of which have been printed.

The considerations which have been suggested as a ground for the appointment of an Arabic teacher at Sierra Leone, apply with equal force to the case of the Susoo language. A competent teacher of the Susoo may be engaged on the spot for a moderate salary; and the same means of exciting and rewarding the diligence of the students of Susoo, may be pursued, as has been proposed in the case of the Arabic students.

Colonists or natives duly instructed in these languages, and in English, might be employed as school-masters in the native towns; and knowledge and improvement be thus rapidly extended.

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| Thos. | Gould, Esq. Manchester - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| W. | Gray, Esq. York - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| *Rev. S. | Greatheed, Newport Pagnel - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| *Mrs. | Green, York - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *Geo. | Harrison, Esq. 14, Abchurch-lane - - - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| Mrs. | Hatchard ditto - | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| *W. S. | Hathaway, Esq. Mark-lane - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Thos. | Hawkes, Esq. 24, Piccadilly | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Thos. | Hayter, Esq. Mark-lane - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| Wm. | Hey, Esq. Leeds - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| Mr. J. | Hill, Westminster - - | 2 | 10 | 0 |
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| W. H. | Hoare, Esq. Fleet-street - | 31 | 10 | 0 |

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| *Thos. | Hodson, Esq. Crutched-friars | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *G. L. | Hollingsworth, Esq. Darlington | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Wm. | Honeywood, Esq. - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *W. J. | Hooker, Esq. Norwich - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. | Houlston, Esq. Nine Elms - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| *Mr. Luke | Howard, Plough-court, Lombard-street - - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| John | Huddlestone, Esq. Old Windsor | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *Mr. D. | Hull, Uxbridge - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. S. | Hull ditto - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. | Hull ditto - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. | Huskisson, Esq. M. P. St. James's-place - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| W. | JACOB, Esq. Newgate-street | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *John | Jacob, Esq. ditto - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Messrs. | Janson & Sons, Darlington - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| *R. W. | Johnstone, Esq. Darlington - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Benjamin | Jowett, Esq. Camberwell - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| *N. C. | KINDERSLEY, Esq. Blackheath - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| *Mr. G. | Knowles, York - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| C. E. | Lefroy, Esq. Chapel-street - | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| *Ditto | Ditto Annual - - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. Jane | Legard, York - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |

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| *Vincent | Litchfield, Esq. - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Gaml. | Lloyd, Esq. Hampstead - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| J. H. | Lloyd, Esq. Neath Abbey - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mrs. A. | Lloyd, York - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Wm. | Lucas, Esq. Hitchin - - | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Messrs. W. & S. | Lucas ditto - - | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| James | Lumsden, Esq. Neath Abbey, Glamorganshire - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *G. W. | Marriott, Esq. - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Robert | Marsden, Esq. Princes-st. Bank | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wm. | Marsh, Reading - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Mr. Benjamin | Middleton, Wellington - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| M. | Montagu, Esq. M.P. Portman-square - - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| J. B. S. | Morritt, Esq. - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| Lindley | Murray, Esq. York - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| A. | NEATBY, Esq. Maze-pond | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| ——— | Nede, Esq. - - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| David | Niven, Esq. 15, King-st. Soho | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| G. N. | Noel, Esq. M.P. 8, Cavendish-square - | 73 | 10 | 0 |
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| Mr. | North - - - | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| *Mr. Thomas | Nott, 1, Tichborne-street - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Mr. Robert | Pickering, York - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |

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| Wm. Morton | Pitt, Esq. M.P. Arlington-ſtr. | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Joseph | Pitt, Cirencester - - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| *Rev. Josiah | Pratt, Doughty-street - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. J. T. | Price, Neath Abby, Glamorganshire - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. P. | Price ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. T. | Priestman, York - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Sir SAMUEL | ROMILLY, Lincoln's-inn, New-square - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Rev. J. | Rees, 39, Paternoster-row - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Richard | Reynolds, Esq. Bristol - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| Thos. | Rickman, Esq. Barcombe, near Lewes - - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Thos. | Robarts, Esq. King's Bench-house, Archbishop's-walk, Lambeth | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| *— | Roberts, Gould-square - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Geo. | Robinson, Esq. Queen-street | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Messrs. | Robson & Son, Darlington | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. Edwd. | Robson, ditto - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Thos. | Rowcroft, Esq. Broad-street-buildings - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. | Rowley, 53, Great Queen-street | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| —— | Russel, Esq. York - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| *J. T. | Rutt, Esq. 60, Basinghall-street | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| EARL | SELKIRK - - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. | Sancho, Mews-gate - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |

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| Mrs. | Scott, York - - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Mr. Rowles | Scudamore, Grange, near Stroud | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *William | Sharp, Esq. ditto | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| John | Simeon, Esq. M. P. 50, Queen-Anne-street, West - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| Rev. Charles | Simeon, Cambridge - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Rev. J. P. | Smith, D.D. Homerton | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| *Mr. Thomas | Smith, Moorfields - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *J. E. | Smith, M.D. Norwich - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| George | Stacey, Esq. 100, Holborn | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Spencer | Stanhope, Esq. - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *James | Stephen, Esq. M. P. 4, Serjeant's-inn - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Colonel | Stephenson, 46, George-str. Portman-square - | 3 | 3 | 0 |

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| Henry | Sudell, Esq. Blackburn, Lancashire - - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| RIGHT HON. LORD TEIGNMOUTH - | | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| RT. HON. VISCOUNT VALENTIA - | | 31 | 10 | 0 |
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| Right Hon. J. C. | Villiers, 17, North Audley-str. | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *Rev. Edw. Thos. | Vaughan, Leicester - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *RT. HON. CTSS. OF WALDEGRAVE - | | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| T. | Wagstaff, Esq. Harleston, Norfolk - - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
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| *W. | Wansey, Esq. 38, Upper Thames-st | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Rev. H. G. | Watkins - - - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Rev. D. S | Wayland, Frome - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| E. I. | Wheeler, Esq. Hitchin - | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Elizabeth | Wheeler, ditto - - - | 0 | 10 | 0 |
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| William | Wilberforce, Esq. M.P. Old Palace-yard - - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
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| *J. R. | Williams, Esq. Green Lodge, Lewisham - - - | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| *Mr. Edward | Williams, Chiswick - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Henry | Willoughby, Esq. M.P. Hutton, near York - - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Rev. James | Willonghby, ditto - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| | (Annual) - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Anonymous | - - - - - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Ditto | - - - - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ditto | (By W. Wilberforce, Esq.) - | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| *A Deceased Friend | (per ditto) - - | 16 | 10 | 0 |
| N.B. | - - - - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| N. S. | Brighton - - - - | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| S. C. | (By Joseph Hardcastle, Esq.) | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hull Subscription, | (per Rev. T. Dikes) - | 12 | 15 | 1 |
| Subscription from | High Wycombe (per Thomas Baring, Esq.) | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| A few Friends at | Bridport, (per Mr. William Stephens) | 10 | 8 | 3 |

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| *Messrs. | Barlow & Child, Knowle's-courr, Little Carter-lane - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Sarah | Benson, Liverpool - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| Mr. Andrew | Browne, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. H. | Burns, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. George | Burroch, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Mrs. Mary | Carter, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. John | Casson, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Rev. Edward | Cooper, Hamstall Ridware - | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| James | Cropper, Esq. Liverpool - | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| *Captain C. M. | Fabian, R. N. - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. | Fawcett, Liverpool - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Jos. | Fearon, ditto - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Elizabeth | Fedden, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. W. | Flounders, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Joseph | Gibbons, Liverpool - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *——— | Goddard, Esq. 70, Berners-str. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| *Mr. J. W. | Golby, Banbury - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *Rev. James | Greville - - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| R. | G. Liverpool - - - | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Joseph | Hadwin, Liverpool - - | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| Mr. Isaac | Hadwin, ditto - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| *Ditto | Ditto Annual - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Bartin | Haigh, Liverpool - - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. W. | Hardden, ditto . - - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| *Mr. Samuel | Holland, ditto - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Mr. Michael | Humble, ditto - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |

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| *Rev. E. | Marsh - - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. John | Oxley - - - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *Mr. John | Phillips, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Mr. James | Rushton, Liverpool - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. William | Russell, ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. James | Ryley, ditto - - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| Mr. S. W. | Shepherd, Plymouth - - | 5 | 0 | 0 |
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| Mr. James | Smith ditto - - | 0 | 10 | 6 |
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| Rev. Henry | Spellman - - - | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| Mr. Jacob | Thompson ditto - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Rev. John | Venn, Clapham - - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Mr. John | Webster, ditto - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *Rev. N. G. | Woodroffe, Somerford, Wilts - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Samuel | Worsley, High Wycombe - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. Thomas | Zachary, Liverpool - - - | 0 | 10 | 6 |

*W. Phillips, Printer, George-Yard, Lombard-Street*

# THIRD

# REPORT

OF THE

# DIRECTORS

OF THE

# AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

READ

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE
25th OF MARCH, 1809.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

## A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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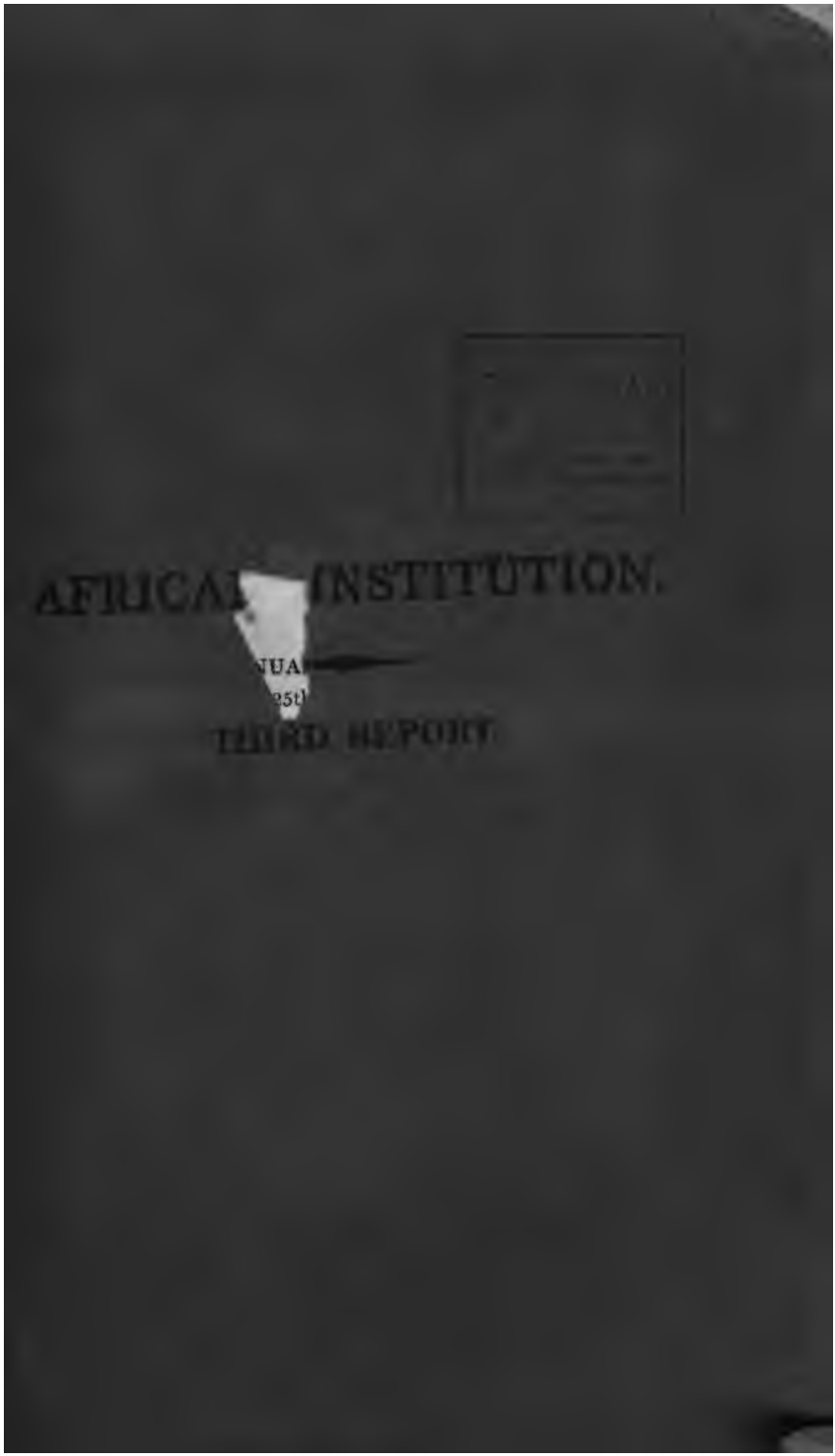
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25th
THIRD REPORT

# THIRD

# REPORT

OF THE

# DIRECTORS

OF THE

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

# AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

READ

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE 25th OF MARCH, 1809.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

## A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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PRINTED BY ELLERTON AND BYWORTH, JOHNSON'S COURT, FLEET STREET.

SOLD BY J. HATCHARD, 190, PICCADILLY.

1809.

(Price, One Shilling.)

SEKAB

At a General Meeting of the Subscribers of the AFRICAN INSTITUTION, held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday the 25th instant:

*His Royal Highness the* DUKE *of* GLOUCESTER, *Patron and President,* in the Chair:

A REPORT having been made to the Meeting, by the Board of Directors, of their proceedings during the past year; it was

Resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. SPENCER STANHOPE,

That the Thanks of the Meeting be returned to the Directors for the Report now read, and that the substance thereof be printed.

The following six Gentlemen having been proposed to supply the place of those Directors who had vacated their seats, according to the second Section of the fourth Chapter of the Bye-Laws of the Institution, were unanimously elected, viz.

| | |
|---|---|
| John Bowdler, jun. Esq. | W.-Henry Hoare, Esq. |
| Colonel Dalton. | Charles Pieschell, Esq. |
| John Egerton, Esq. M. P. | Thomas Rowcroft, Esq. |

The following Gentlemen were also chosen Auditors for the ensuing year:

Joseph Butterworth, Esq.
Francis Cunningham, Esq.
Edward Forster, jun. Esq.

Resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. RUTT,

That the Directors be annually elected; but that the six Directors who shall have attended the smallest number of Meetings, during the preceding year, be not eligible to be re-elected until the subsequent Annual Meeting: the names of such of the Directors as are eligible to be re-elected for the ensuing year, to be reported to the Annual General Meeting; and the eligibility of such Directors as may have attended an equal number of Meetings, to be decided by lot.

The Earl of Moira having informed the Meeting, in a very impressive speech, of his having recently learnt that Sir SYDNEY SMITH had been presented, by the Prince Regent of Portugal, with an Estate, and with a number of Negro Slaves, to be employed in cultivating it; and that the use Sir Sydney Smith had made of this gift, was immediately to liberate the Slaves, and to allot to each of them a portion of this estate, to be cultivated by them, as free labourers, for their own exclusive benefit; it was

Resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. WILBERFORCE,

That His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester be requested to communicate to Sir SYDNEY SMITH the high sense entertained by this Meeting of his admirable judgment and liberality in the above instance; and to return him their warmest thanks for a conduct which is so truly honourable to the British name and character, and which may be expected, in the way of example, to be productive of the happiest effects.

Resolved unanimously, on the motion of Earl MOIRA,

That the warmest Thanks of this Meeting be presented to His Royal Highness the DUKE of GLOUCESTER, for his indefatigable exertions in promoting the objects of the Institution, and for his able conduct in the Chair.

Resolved unanimously, on the motion of Lord HENRY PETTY,

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to MR. MACAULAY, for his assiduous attention to the Interests of the Society.

Adjourned.

PATRON AND PRESIDENT.

His Royal Highness the DUKE of GLOUCESTER.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.
His Grace the Duke of Grafton.
Earl Selkirk.
Earl Spencer.
Earl Grosvenor.
Earl Grey.
Earl Moira.
Viscount Milton.
Viscount Valentia.
Right Honourable Lord Henry Petty.
The Lord Bishop of London.
The Lord Bishop of Durham.
The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.
The Lord Bishop of St. David's.
Right Honourable Lord Holland.
Right Honourable Lord Grenville.
Right Honourable Lord Erskine.
Right Honourable Lord Teignmouth.
Right Honourable Spencer Perceval.
Right Honourable George Canning.
William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P.

TREASURER.

Henry Thornton, Esq. M. P.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Right Hon. Lord Headley. | William-Henry Hoare, Esq. |
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| Right Hon. J. Smyth. | Matthew Martin, Esq. |
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*Secretary, pro tem.* Z. Macaulay, Esq.

*Collector*, Mr. John Crisp.

A Subscription of Sixty Guineas or upwards at one time constitutes a hereditary Governor.—Of Thirty Guineas at one time, a Governor for Life.—Of Three Guineas Annually, an Annual Governor.—Of Ten Guineas at one time, a Member for Life.—Of One Guinea Annually, an Annual Member.

The Board of Directors is chosen from among the Governors.

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*** Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free, and Down, No. 1, Bartholomew-lane; Messrs. Hoare, Barnett, & Co., No. 62, Lombard-street; Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smiths, George-street, Mansion House; Messrs. Hoares, 37, Fleet-street; Messrs. Drummonds, Charing Cross; Messrs. Ransom, Morland, & Co., Pall Mall; by the Treasurer, Henry Thornton, Esq.; by the Secretary, Mr. Z. Macaulay; or by Mr. John Crisp, the Collector, 26, Birchin-lane; to whom, or to the Secretary, Communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

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N. B. The First and Second Reports of the Institution, containing a full exposition of its design, and a copy of the Laws and Regulations adopted for its government, may be obtained from Mr. Crisp, as above, or from J. Hatchard, 190, Piccadilly.

# THIRD REPORT,

&c. &c.

THE Directors propose to lay before the Subscribers a brief summary of their proceedings during the last year; referring them to the Appendix for such farther details as may be likely to prove interesting or useful.

In the last Report, the Directors stated, that it was their intention to incur the expense of instructing two African youths, who were about to return to their own country, in the admirable system of education, which was first adopted in India by Dr. Bell, and has since been introduced into this country, and greatly improved, by that gentleman and Mr. Lancaster, with a view to its being transplanted to Africa. By the favour of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, these youths, to whom a third was afterwards added, were allowed to attend, for several months, at the Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea, where about one thousand children are educated on the above plan; and were permitted, during that time, to

act as teachers, under the eye of the Superintendants of the seminary. When they had obtained what appeared a competent degree of familiarity with the details of this system, they were sent, at the expense of the Institution, to Sierra Leone, there to be employed in the business of instruction. His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department being made acquainted with their qualifications, very liberally placed them as schoolmasters on the Sierra Leone Establishment; so that, though they will be employed exactly in the line the Directors intended they should, their future maintenance will occasion no expense to the Institution. These young men, besides the general knowledge they acquired during a residence of seven or eight years in this country, and during that time their education was not neglected, carried back with them some knowledge of the art of drawing; and two of them were well acquainted with the weaving of Cotton.

The Directors have communicated to the Governor of Sierra Leone their wish, that every means in his power should be employed to induce the African Chiefs to send their children to be educated at the Schools established at Sierra Leone; and to promote this object, they have expressed their willingness, relying on the liberality of the public, to enlarge the

limits of the expenditure to which they had been desirous of restricting him. And they have further informed him, that, if there should be a few young men, natives of Africa, to whom, after having had a previous elementary education, it might be desirable to impart some branches of knowledge which are not attainable in Africa, but which may promise to be advantageous both to the individuals and to their country; the Directors would be disposed to incur the expense which might attend their being sent to England, their being there instructed, and afterwards sent back to Africa. It was of course the desire of the Board, that the youths selected for this purpose should be such as had given satisfactory proof of their capacity, and of their disposition to improve the advantages proposed to them.

Shortly after the last general meeting, a Memoir was presented to the Directors, pointing out some of the advantages which would be likely to accrue to Africa from the cultivation of the Arabic and Soosoo languages by persons resident at Sierra Leone, and especially by the servants of Government. The substance of this Memoir will be found in the Appendix to the Second Report, p. 42. The Directors were induced, by the representations contained in it, to adopt some Resolutions on the subject,

which have already been made public *. These Resolutions, after expressing the desire of the Board to encourage and promote the study of the native languages of Africa by the Europeans, and others resident at Sierra Leone, empowered the Governor of that Colony to engage proper persons to teach the Arabic and Soosoo languages to such individuals as might wish to acquire them. The Directors have not been informed whether any progress has been made in carrying these Resolutions into effect.

In the former Report, the Directors stated it to be their opinion, that a very important benefit would be conferred on the inhabitants of Africa, by introducing among them the seed of a superior species of COTTON to that which commonly grows there. To this object they have, therefore, directed much of their attention; and they are happy to say, that they have succeeded in it beyond their hopes. Notwithstanding the American Embargo, not less than twelve puncheons of Cotton Seed, half being of the Sea Island, and the other half of the Upland or Bowed Cotton, have been procured from Georgia, and conveyed to Sierra Leone, and other parts of the coast. Besides this, considerable quantities of the seed of the

* See the Advertisement prefixed to the Second Report.

most valuable Cottons have been obtained at Manchester, and sent to Africa. The whole quantity of Cotton Seed already transmitted thither exceeds fifteen tons. A few barrels of it had arrived at Sierra Leone in the month of May last; some of which had been sown, and was coming up, in the month of June: but the greatest part of it would not reach its destination till about the beginning of the present year. In the course of a few months, some account may be expected of the use to which it has been applied.

The Directors, in writing to their correspondents in Africa on the subject of the growth of Cotton, were anxious to impress on their minds how desirable it is, in the present state of the Cotton Market, that the utmost exertions should be made to extend its cultivation; as, under the pressure of the American Embargo, hardly any article could better repay the Cultivator; while nothing could tend more to give importance to Africa, in the eyes both of the Legislature and the Public, than the prospect of her furnishing a large and growing supply of Cotton Wool. Nor to this end did it appear to the Directors necessary that regular plantations should be undertaken in the first instance. If individuals generally could be induced to grow a little, so considerable a

quantity might, in a short time, be collected, as would afford a demonstration of the capabilities of Africa, which might be sufficient to overcome existing prejudices, and to direct the attention of the Public more generally to that quarter of the Globe.

Agreeably to these views, directions were given, that Cotton Seed should be distributed widely among the Natives, accompanied by instructions for its culture, and information respecting its value; and the Board sent out seven Cotton Gins (machines for cleaning the Cotton), complete, with the iron-work for about twelve more. These would furnish at once the means of preparing the Cotton Wool for the market, and would also serve as models for the construction of similar machines.

That this important object might be still farther promoted, a paper of directions for the cultivation and management of Cotton, from the moment of putting the seed into the ground until it is in a state to be put on ship-board, has been prepared and printed *. These directions have been framed with the concurrent approbation of several persons who had been engaged in the culture of Cotton in America and the West Indies, and of others who are

* See Appendix, G.

well acquainted with the quality and value of the article in the home market. About five hundred copies of them have been sent to Africa; and it is hoped that they may also be translated into Arabic, and circulated among the natives who understand that language.

In the month of June last, Mr. Loutherbourg presented to the Board of Directors, through his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, a sample of a species of Hemp, that had been manufactured from the leaves of a particular kind of Palm-tree, abounding in the river Sierra Leone and its neighbourhood. The fibres of this sample, on being submitted to experiment, appeared to be not much inferior in strength to the common hemp. The Directors received information about the same time from the Governor of Sierra Leone, that, in the want of English cordage, the Colonists had been induced to make use of African rope, which was found to cost not more than one-fourth of the price of the former, and yet to be equally durable. In consequence of these concurrent statements, the Directors thought it proper to send out the necessary utensils for submitting the substance in question to a fair experiment; and to request, that a ton of the hemp, in a state fit for spinning, might be prepared at the expense of the Institution, and

sent to this country. Even if it should prove greatly inferior to the Russian hemp, still the price to which that article has risen, and the general anxiety which is felt to render Great Britain as independent as possible of the Continent of Europe, makes it desirable, that the practicability of obtaining from Africa what may serve in any measure as a substitute for hemp, should be ascertained; and seems to justify the expense which, with that view, the Directors have authorized. No report has as yet been received from Africa on this point.

Another communication was made to the Board of Directors by a Gentleman of Liverpool, on the subject of importing the Bark of the Mangrove-tree from Africa, as a substitute, in the process of tanning leather, for the Oak Bark, which has risen to an unprecedented price: and this Gentleman having also pointed out the proper method of preparing it, the Directors were induced to order a quantity of it to be sent hither from Sierra Leone, in order to try its efficacy. This order has not yet been complied with: but it appears, by a letter recently received from the Governor of Sierra Leone, that he had commenced an experiment with the Mangrove Bark in the tanning of leather, which he seems to have had no doubt would succeed.

The great abundance of the Castor-oil nut, on the western coast of Africa, has induced the Directors to send out, by a late conveyance, one of the machines invented for expressing the oil; which is a much more advantageous mode of preparing this valuable medicine than the common method of boiling.

The raising of Silk in Africa is a subject which has also engaged the attention of the Directors. With that view, a number of plants of the White-Mulberry tree were sent to Sierra Leone in the month of November last, with directions for their proper management. Their success in that climate is still problematical. If they should succeed, it is conceived that there will be no reason to doubt the practicability of raising Silk in Africa.

Besides the Mulberry plants, the Directors have transmitted to Sierra Leone a variety of plants and seeds of other valuable productions; particularly the genuine Peruvian Bark, Camphor, the Green and Bohea Tea-tree, and Tobacco. Some of them, they doubt not, will be found to answer.

These different plants and seeds were sent out under the care of a Gentleman who had some knowledge of gardening, and who voluntarily offered his services to attend to them while on shipboard, and afterwards to super-

intend their removal thence, and their culture on shore.

The Directors have also used means, which they trust will be effectual, for procuring, both from the East and West Indies, many valuable plants, which have not hitherto been naturalized in Africa.

In their last Report the Directors stated, that they had it in contemplation to promote the Agriculture and Commerce of Africa, by means of the distribution of honorary rewards to such persons as should distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits. They soon afterwards announced their intention of bestowing Premiums, of the value of fifty guineas each, on such persons as should first import into this country the largest quantity of the following productions, the growth of Africa: 1. of Cotton Wool, not less than a ton; 2. of manufactured Indigo, not less than one hundred-weight; and 3. of White Rice, not less than ten tons: and a like premium for the cultivation of Coffee *. The only premium which has yet been adjudged, is that for the importation of Cotton. A piece of Plate, of the value of fifty guineas, has been given to Messrs. Andersons, of Philpot Lane, for

* See the Advertisement prefixed to the Second Report.

having imported, in the last Autumn, upwards of 10,000*lb.* weight of Cotton, the growth of the Island of Tasso, in the River Sierra Leone. It was of a good quality, and sold for 2s. 8d. per pound. It would have sold at a higher price, had it been properly gathered and cleaned. A small quantity of Cotton, sent home by the Governor of Sierra Leone, though defective in the same respects, sold for 2s. 10d. per pound. The Directors understand that Messrs. Andersons have of late greatly enlarged their Cotton Plantations in the River Sierra Leone. Not less than six hundred acres, in addition to what they had in cultivation before, are said to have been prepared to be planted with Cotton in the month of May last.

The Premium offered for Rice has been claimed, but not awarded. It has been claimed for eleven tons of Rice, imported, in the month of November last, into the West Indies from the windward coast of Africa: but the Directors were of opinion, that it would not be proper to give it in this case; because the offer of a Premium had been made to those only who should import Rice into Great Britain, and several vessels had sailed hence on purpose to procure cargoes of African Rice for the English market, the return of which might be soon expected. But although they have judged

Directors are happy to observe, that the *direct* trade between this country and Africa has considerably increased since the entire cessation of the Slave Trade; and they have little doubt that it will go on increasing with a rapid progression, provided the Abolition Laws of this country and America are effectually enforced *. To this last-mentioned object much of the attention of the Directors has been turned; and circumstances have come to their knowledge, which leave them no room to doubt that means are at this moment employed, by persons formerly engaged in the Slave Trade, for eluding the salutary provisions of the Abolition Act, and perpetuating the guilt and misery of that traffic. The Subscribers will perceive, that it would be highly inexpedient for the Directors to give publicity, either to the information which they have received on this point, or to the particular measures which they are taking to counteract these illegal proceedings. Such a disclosure would be productive of this, among other inconveniences, that it might enable the parties offending to guard more effectually against detection and punishment. The Directors, however, cannot urge too strongly on the Subscribers, individually, to watch, in their respective circles, any symptoms which may

* See Appendix, I.

be exhibited of the revival, in any form, of this trade. The Abolition Act prohibits, under severe penalties, the insurance of Slave ships, whether British or Foreign: and such members of this Institution as frequent Lloyd's Coffeehouse, cannot more effectually promote the objects for which it was formed, than by giving early notice of any attempt to infringe the law in this respect *.

The Directors also feel themselves restrained from making any particular report respecting the measures which they have adopted, or are now pursuing, with a view to induce foreign nations to restrict, or entirely to abandon, the Slave Trade; because they could not enter on the subject without disclosing communications which are of a confidential nature. They have much pleasure in stating, that his Majesty's Ministers have shewn themselves, on all occasions, fully disposed to promote, as far as it has been in their power, the purposes of the Institution; and the Directors cannot but hope that their efforts, in this respect, will not be wholly without effect.

One measure, which has occurred to the Directors as likely to contribute to the important end of inclining foreign nations to

* See Appendix, L.

concur in abolishing the Slave Trade, has been, the translation into foreign languages of some of the publications on that subject which have appeared in this country. These, if printed and widely circulated, might have a considerable effect in preparing foreign States, as well as the people under their government, for the change in view. On this principle they have resolved to promote the publication, in the Dutch, French, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, of such works and tracts as may be best adapted to produce in these nations a conviction of the inhumanity and impolicy of the Slave Trade.

The Directors will now advert to the information they have received from Africa in the course of the last year.

Letters from the Governor of Sierra Leone, dated in May last, state, that the Colony was on the most friendly terms with the surrounding natives; and that its influence among them had of late rapidly increased. None of those massacres, which were predicted as an inevitable consequence of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, had occurred in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone. Only one trial for witchcraft had taken place for a long time; whereas formerly such trials used to be very frequent: and although in that one case the accused had been

found guilty, she had not been put to death; but after some time had been set at liberty.

"There is no fear," observes the Governor, "but that the natives in this neighbourhood will have abundant employment. Hitherto they have been chiefly busied in the manufacture of Salt, which is in great demand. Their Rice Fields have certainly been prepared this year a fortnight or three weeks earlier than usual, from which I prognosticate well."

"All the wars round us are suspended for the present. I do not say that they are suspended in consequence of the Abolition; but the Abolition is very likely to prevent their revival."

"There can be no doubt that the communication between the Coast and the Interior is in a fair way of being more open."—"In the breeding of Cattle, we are greatly improving: their numbers increase, and they thrive well." And, in a subsequent letter, it is stated, that oxen are now used in the draught, much to the advantage of the Colony.

He thus concludes one of his letters:—

"This has certainly been one of the quietest and most uninteresting years I have known in Africa. I have neither trials for witchcraft, nor wars, nor kidnappings, to speak of in my

sent to Africa; as Cotton Gins, Castor-Oil Press, &c.: and, added to these, the necessary expense of Stationary, Assistance in Writing, and other incidental charges, have entrenched greatly on the Funds of the Institution. It ought to be stated, at the same time, that great economy has been observed in the management of its concerns. No expense has as yet been incurred for a house, or office; and the payments made to persons employed in writing, and in the packing and distributing of Reports, &c. and in the various other services which have been performed for the Institution, have been only occasional, and as low as the several occasions admitted: they amount only to sixty pounds: and the Directors cannot but express a confident hope, that, so long as their expenditure of the Funds of the Society is confined to objects of obvious importance to the great ends of its Institution, it will meet with the approbation of the Subscribers in general, and the liberal support of the Public at large.

the Gold Coast respecting the political state, and the agricultural faculties, of that part of Africa; which tends to encourage the hope, that much may be done towards its improvement, if adequate means are employed to that end *.

The only point to which the Directors have still to advert is, the state of the Funds of the Institution. The expenditure, as will be seen from the statement about to be submitted to the Subscribers, has been large; but the Directors trust, that, large as it is, it will not appear to be disproportioned to the good that has been effected. It amounts in all, from March 1807, to Jan. 1, 1809, to 1550*l.* 8s. 4d. The expense of printing and gratuitously distributing between five and six thousand of the Reports throughout the Kingdom, and of advertising the Institution in newspapers, and in almost all the different periodical publications, has of itself been considerable. Besides this, the expense of the maintenance, equipment, and passage, to Africa, of the three youths intended for Schoolmasters; the charge of procuring and transporting Cotton Seed from America to England, and from England to Africa, as well as of the transmission of other plants and seeds; the cost, freight, &c. of the various implements

* See Appendix, N.

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# *Statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the African Institution,*

*From March* 1807, *to December* 31, 1808.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Amount of Donations and Life Subscriptions . . | | | | £3843 | 2 | 3 |
| To Amount of Annual Subscriptions . . . . . | | | | 531 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 4374 2 3 |
| By Cash paid for printing and dispersing Accounts of the objects of the Institution, and for incidental Charges: viz.— | | | | | | |
| Advertisements, and Insertions in Newspapers . . . . . | £126 | 14 | 6 | | | |
| Printing 80,000 summary Accounts of the objects of the Institution, and publishing the same generally in all the periodical Works . . . . . | 128 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| Printing the Reports of the Directors, paper for ditto, stationary, and various other Charges . . . . . | 262 | 6 | 9 | | | |
| Porterage of Reports, and Carriage to all parts of the United Kingdom; Postages, Hire of Rooms, &c. . . . . | 153 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | 670 | 9 | 0 |
| By Cash paid Travelling Expenses, Board, Education, Clothing, and Passage-Money to Africa, of three African Youths . . . . . | | | | 286 | 18 | 5 |
| By Cash paid Freight and Charges on Cotton Seed, from America to England and from England to Sierra Leone . . | 141 | 5 | 10 | | | |
| Cost of Cotton Gins, Hemp Hackles, and Plants, sent to Sierra Leone; including Freight and Charges . . . | 323 | 13 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | 464 | 19 | 8 |
| By Cash paid Clerks for their services in writing, packing and transmitting Reports, and transacting the other business of the Institution . . . . . | | | | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| By Cash paid on collecting Subscriptions to 25th March 1808 . . . . . | | | | 68 | 1 | 3 |
| By Purchase of Exchequer Bills . . . . . | | | | 2015 | 13 | 3 |
| By Cash in hand . . . . . | | | | 159 | 1 | 8 |
| By Arrears of Subscriptions (a great part of which has since been paid) . . . . . | | | | 648 | 19 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 4374 2 3 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Cash in hand (brought down) . . . . . | 159 | 1 | 8 |
| Exchequer Bills . . . . . | 2015 | 13 | 3 |
| Arrears of Subscriptions . . . . . | 648 | 19 | 0 |
| | £2823 | 13 | 11 |

# APPENDIX.

## G.

### *Directions for the Culture of Cotton in Africa.*

COTTON grows in any soil that is not over moist. The common opinion, however, that it flourishes most in barren or impoverished land, is erroneous. It will doubtless grow in thin arid soils, not exhausted by previous cultivation; yet there cannot be a doubt that it will prove more productive in good or middling land, consisting of a loose dry mould, free from clay or marl. If the inclination of the land be sufficient to carry off the water, the labour of trenching and draining, which is necessary in level lands, will be saved. As no plant requires so little rain as Cotton, the close vicinity of high mountains is injurious to it, while it is beneficial to the Coffee. On the other hand, the saline air of the sea-shore, which generally destroys Coffee, is favourable to Cotton.

The land for Cotton must be cleared in the dry season; and the operation should commence in sufficient time to allow the wood and brush, which have been cut down, to dry, so as to be burned before the rains set in. The process of clearing need not to be described. It would, however, be a great improvement of the method which prevails in Africa, if the underwood and small wood were grubbed out, and the large wood were not only cut down, but its branches lopped off, and its trunk also cut into such logs as may be easily removed, and heaped together for burning. The more completely the ground is cleared, the more productive is the Cotton likely to be. It certainly, however, would not an-

swer to grub out the larger stumps and roots: they must be left to rot, which they will do in a few years.

In situations where the rains are not violent, the Cotton Seed is generally put into the ground at an early period of the rainy season. But in places differently circumstanced, this operation is deferred till the rains are within a month or two of their termination; with a view both to guard against an over-luxuriant vegetation, whereby the plants might exhaust their strength in branches and leaves, and to avoid the injurious consequences of rain at the time the blossoms are appearing and the pods forming. In Africa, the best time for planting the seed must be regulated by experience, and by the result of experiments to be made at all seasons from March to September; but the earlier the seed can *safely* be sown the better.

In Georgia and Carolina considerable labour is bestowed in plowing and harrowing the ground, and forming ridges, raised pretty high, with trenches between. This, no doubt, assists vegetation, and at the same time serves to carry off the water from the flat lands. The same thing is done, though less carefully, with hoes, in Demerara and Berbice: but it is seldom done in the West-India Islands. There, however, the fields are regularly laid out, and the holes opened in straight lines. The distance between the holes varies from five feet in poor soils to eight feet in rich soils. The holes are made by loosening the earth for about eight or nine inches or a foot square, and five or six inches deep. From six to fifteen seeds, spread longitudinally, may be put into each hole, and covered over lightly with earth, not above one or two inches deep at most. The more moist the ground is, the more lightly should the seed be covered, otherwise it will be apt to rot. The plants will generally shew themselves in from five to nine days, but sometimes not before fourteen. When they have four distinct leaves, half the number in each hole may be drawn, and these must afterwards be gradually

reduced, until only one, and that the most vigorous and healthy plant, is left in each hole. For the first six weeks, the plants are of slow growth, and very tender; and they must be carefully kept clear of weeds until they become of a sufficient size to suppress all extraneous growth. It would be of great service also that the earth should be occasionally drawn up about the roots, until the blossoms appear, when this operation is no longer necessary. At the end of six weeks, if not before, the plants, if luxuriant, ought to be topped or pruned, by breaking or cutting off an inch or more from the end of each shoot, which makes the stems spread and throw out a greater number of branches. And this operation, if the plants are very luxuriant, will require to be performed a second, or even a third time, with a knife, on the stem and branches.

The blossoms generally appear in about eighty days after the seed has been planted, and sometimes later; and the first pods arrive at maturity in about three months from that time. The blossom of the green seed, when it first appears, which is generally in the morning, is white, and remains of that colour for the first twelve hours; but it changes the following night to a beautiful crimson, and drops off within thirty-six hours of its first appearance. That of the Black Seed, or Sea Island, undergoes the same change with the green, but when it first comes out it is of a deep yellow colour.

The Cotton should be fully blown before it is picked. This may be ascertained by its separating *easily* from the pod or husk. When it adheres to the pod, and must be forced from it, the Cotton will be of an inferior quality. Great care should be taken to gather it as free from trash or dirt of any kind as possible, which will save much trouble afterwards in the cleaning. Cotton ought not to be picked after rain, or while wet, as in that case it will be stained and of little value. In gathering the crop, particular care should be taken to keep the stained and dirty Cotton separate from the more perfect, which may be done by each labourer having two bags, one

# APPENDIX.

## G.

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The land for Cotton must be cleared in the dry season; and the operation should commence in sufficient time to allow the wood and brush, which have been cut down, to dry, so as to be burned before the rains set in. The process of clearing need not to be described. It would, however, be a great improvement of the method which prevails in Africa, if the underwood and small wood were grubbed out, and the large wood were not only cut down, but its branches lopped off, and its trunk also cut into such logs as may be easily removed, and heaped together for burning. The more completely the ground is cleared, the more productive is the Cotton likely to be. It certainly, however, would not an-

swer to grub out the larger stumps and roots: they must be left to rot, which they will do in a few years.

In situations where the rains are not violent, the Cotton Seed is generally put into the ground at an early period of the rainy season. But in places differently circumstanced, this operation is deferred till the rains are within a month or two of their termination; with a view both to guard against an over-luxuriant vegetation, whereby the plants might exhaust their strength in branches and leaves, and to avoid the injurious consequences of rain at the time the blossoms are appearing and the pods forming. In Africa, the best time for planting the seed must be regulated by experience, and by the result of experiments to be made at all seasons from March to September; but the earlier the seed can *safely* be sown the better.

In Georgia and Carolina considerable labour is bestowed in plowing and harrowing the ground, and forming ridges, raised pretty high, with trenches between. This, no doubt, assists vegetation, and at the same time serves to carry off the water from the flat lands. The same thing is done, though less carefully, with hoes, in Demerara and Berbice: but it is seldom done in the West-India Islands. There, however, the fields are regularly laid out, and the holes opened in straight lines. The distance between the holes varies from five feet in poor soils to eight feet in rich soils. The holes are made by loosening the earth for about eight or nine inches or a foot square, and five or six inches deep. From six to fifteen seeds, spread longitudinally, may be put into each hole, and covered over lightly with earth, not above one or two inches deep at most. The more moist the ground is, the more lightly should the seed be covered, otherwise it will be apt to rot. The plants will generally shew themselves in from five to nine days, but sometimes not before fourteen. When they have four distinct leaves, half the number in each hole may be drawn, and these must afterwards be gradually

*Table shewing the Gross Value (including Duty) of the Different Articles imported into this Country from Africa, with the Duty payable on each:—*

| Articles. | Gross Value. | Duty. |
|---|---|---|
| Cotton Wool | 1s. 6d. to 3s. per lb. | —25s. 3¼d. p. 100lb.* |
| Barwood | †12*l.* to 28*l.* per ton. | —31s. 8¾d. per ton. |
| Camwood | †25*l.* to 55*l.* per ton. | —32s. 0½d. per ton. |
| Grains of Guinea or Malaguetta Pepper | †65s. to 90s. p. cwt. | —38s. 0½d. per cwt. |
| Gum Copal | 1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. p. lb. | —1s. 1$\frac{7}{10}$d. per lb. |
| Gum Senegal | 95s. to 110s. per cwt. | —5s. 8d. per cwt. |
| Ebony | †12*l.* to 22*l.* per ton. | —17s. 3$\frac{13}{20}$d. per ton. |
| Elephant's Teeth | ‡ 12*l.* to 35*l.* per cwt. | —63s. 10$\frac{1}{10}$d. p. cwt. |
| Palm Oil | †45s. to 75s. per cwt. | —12s. 2$\frac{7}{10}$d. p. cwt. |
| Bird Pepper | 4d. to 8d. per lb. | —5$\frac{3}{10}$d. per lb. |
| Bees' Wax | †150s. to 210s. p. cwt. | —51s. 4d. per cwt. |
| Ginger | 75s. to 85s. per cwt. | —**43s. 4$\frac{7}{10}$d. p. cwt |
| Unrated Wood | | 27*l.* 3s. 4d. per cent. ad valorem. |
| Coffee | | Customs 3d. p. lb. Excise 2s. p. lb.†† |

* The duty payable on British Plantation, East Indian, and Turkey Cotton Wool, is only 1fs. 10½d. per 100lb.

† The price first mentioned is about the usual price in time of peace; that last mentioned is the price to which the article occasionally rises in time of war.

‡ The price of this article varies according to its size; the larger teeth bringing 30*l.* and upwards per cwt. The small teeth, called Scrivellas, from 12*l.* to 20*l.* per cwt.

** The duty payable on British Plantation Ginger is only 19s. 0½d. per cwt.

†† The Excise on West-Indian Coffee is only 3d. per lb.; on East-Indian, Java, Bourbon, and Mocha Coffee, only 6d. per lb.

for the stained and inferior, the other for the good Cotton. The value of the latter would thus be greatly increased; and even the inferior would always find a market in England.

The next operation is that of separating the Cotton Wool from the seed. Of all the modes of effecting this, *hand-picking* is doubtless the best; because the most favourable state in which Cotton can be for all manufacturing purposes, is, with the exception of being freed from the seed, that in which it is gathered from the plant. Whatever serves to entangle or mat the fibres, is injurious; because, when matted, they require in carding a greater force to separate them; and the effect of this is, to break the staple, and otherwise to produce waste, and inconvenience to the manufacturer; besides which, a fine, clear, even thread, can hardly ever be produced from matted Cotton.

The process of separating the seed from the Cotton Wool by the hand is in general attended with so much expence as to be impracticable; though in Africa, perhaps, from the cheapness of labour, the difficulty may be less. Machines have therefore been substituted for this purpose, called Gins, of which the common Foot Gin is probably at present the best for Africa. There is another kind calculated to work by cattle, wind, or water, which may hereafter be introduced with advantage, but would be found too expensive and complicated at first.

The *Black* seed, being loosely attached to the wool, is easily separated by the Gin, without injury to the staple. The *Green* seed, on the contrary, adheres so closely to the wool that it can only be separated by a Saw Gin, which cuts the staple, and depreciates the Cotton nearly one-half: but if *hand-picked*, it would be more valuable. The Green Seed is more productive than the Black; but the wool of the latter is of considerably higher value. It is hardly necessary to observe, that that mode of ginning is to be preferred which tends least to break the seeds and entangle the fibres of the Cotton.

After the Cotton has been ginned, it should be carefully examined, and freed from all motes, broken seeds, stained wool, &c. as its value in Europe depends much on the condition in which it is packed. The usual mode of packing is this:—A bag is suspended through a round hole in the floor of the Cotton-house, its mouth having been previously distended by a hoop. Into this bag the Cotton is thrown by small quantities, and pressed down by a stout man, standing in the bag, with a pretty heavy pestle of hard wood, nearly of this shape: From 2¼ cwt. to 2½ cwt. should be compressed into five yards of bagging.

In America four acres of Cotton and four acres of Provisions are generally the proportion planted for each labourer, and which, therefore, each labourer is supposed capable of managing. To pick 50lb. of Cotton in a day is considered as a fair task for one person.

The plants should be cut down every year within three or four inches of the ground. The time for doing this, which must be in the rainy season, ought to be regulated by the same circumstances which regulate the planting of the seed at first; and the subsequent management in this case will also be the same as has been already pointed out in the case of plants from the seed. It would be a great advantage, if every third, fourth, or fifth year at farthest, the plants were grubbed out, and their place supplied by means of fresh seed brought from a distance. This would prevent the Cotton from degenerating, which it never fails to do when it has been propagated in the same ground for many years without a change of seed, and would of course preserve its quality, and maintain its reputation in the European markets.

Great care should be taken to prevent a mixture of the different kinds of seed in planting. Each kind should be kept perfectly distinct.

The process called *switching*, or beating the dirt out of the

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| Bees' Wax | †150s. to 210s. p. cwt. | —51s. 4d. per cwt. |
| Ginger | 75s. to 85s. per cwt. | —**43s. 4$\frac{7}{10}$d. p. cwt |
| Unrated Wood | | 27*l.* 3s. 4d. per cent. ad valorem. |
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** The duty payable on British Plantation Ginger is only 19s. 0½d. per cwt.

†† The Excise on West-Indian Coffee is only 3d. per lb.; on East-Indian, Java, Bourbon, and Mocha Coffee, only 6d. per lb.

# I.

*Extract of a Communication from* WILLIAM ROSCOE, *Esq. of Liverpool, to His Royal Highness the* DUKE *of* GLOUCESTER, *dated 20th March* 1809.

"IN order most effectually to promote the beneficent purposes which the African Institution has in view, it seems extremely desirable that the spirit of interchange and traffic, which has been excited in the inhabitants of Africa by means of the Slave Trade, should not be suffered to expire, but should, if possible, be directed into other channels; and that, instead of trading in their own species, they should be encouraged in the cultivation and production of such useful articles, of a fair and legitimate trade, as may supply them in return with European productions, and continue a peaceable and advantageous commerce between two quarters of the world so eminently calculated to be of use to each other.

"This intercourse is not only highly desirable in itself, but would in its consequences be found, in all probability, to be the most likely method of terminating the great object already so happily begun, and wholly abolishing the Trade in Slaves, which yet continues to be carried on with other countries on some parts of the Coast. For if the inhabitants can once be convinced that the native productions of their soil and country will obtain them, in exchange, the articles of which they stand in need, it cannot be supposed that they will long resort to such dangerous and destructive expedients for obtaining them, as were requisite under the system of the Slave Trade.

"Hence it appears, that one of the first objects of the Institution should be, to encourage, as much as possible, a fair and peaceable traffic with the natives of Africa; by inciting

individuals in this country to keep up an intercourse equal to, and if possible greater than, that which existed during the continuance of the Slave Trade. It is a primary rule of the Institution not to engage as a Body in any trade whatever; a circumstance which peculiarly qualifies it to afford the most disinterested and effectual assistance to those who engage in the Trade; as it precludes the possibility of all jealousies and separate interests, and unites the advantages of the individual with the great and salutary objects which the Institution has in view.

"In considering, then, in what manner those objects may be best attained, it seems necessary, in the first place, that the Institution should be furnished with accurate information of the state of the traffic between this country and Africa, from the time of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, in May 1807, to the present time, in order that they may ascertain the foundation upon which their exertions are to be built, and may perceive in what manner they can most effectually encourage a more beneficial and extensive intercourse.

"This information it will be the chief object of the present communication to supply, as far as respects the town of Liverpool, where the principal part of the trade to Africa is still carried on. The union of this with similar information from other ports*, would enable the Institution to ascertain the present extent of the trade, and give just grounds to hope that such trade may not only tend to the advantage and civilization of Africa, but be found an additional source of wealth and prosperity to our own country.

"In the paper which accompanies this, will be found *a List of the Ships cleared out at Liverpool for Africa, from* 1st *of May* 1807, *to* 31st *of Dec.* 1808, with what are called general cargoes, for the purchase of African produce; known before the Abolition under the term of *a dead cargo*. These vessels amount to twenty-four in number, and are generally of the

* See Appendix. K.

burthen of from 150 to 300 tons; of these a considerable part are not yet returned.

"The paper* annexed contains an account of the goods and produce imported into Liverpool direct from the Coast of Africa from June 1807, to the present month of March 1809. If the quantity thus imported appears small in proportion to the ships employed in the trade, it must be observed, that it contains the cargoes of only thirteen vessels, of which nine only are included in the former list; the other four, which arrived in June and July 1807, having sailed for dead cargoes before the Abolition of the Slave Trade took place.

"Besides the African produce thus imported, a considerable quantity has been brought circuitously, by way of Jamaica, &c. by vessels which were allowed to finish their voyages, or which have been employed to bring home such African produce as had found its way to the West Indies before the Abolition of the Slave Trade. An account of the goods thus imported will be found below †.

"Upon these papers, various suggestions will doubtless occur to the Directors of the Institution. It may not, however, be improper to observe, that many of the articles mentioned in these lists are of considerable use in the arts and manufactures of this country; and if they could be brought to market on reasonable terms, would find an almost unli-

* Three tons of Elephants' teeth, and 7172 teeth, the weight of which is not given; 838 casks of Palm Oil; 176½ tons of Barwood, and 4590 pieces, the weight of which is not given; 96 tons of Camwood; 30 barrels of Gum Guiacum; 90 tons of Gum Senegal; 19 casks of Gum Arabic; 33 casks of Gum Copal; and 28 tons of Malaguetta Pepper.

† *Imported from Jamaica, &c.*:—Four tons and a half of Elephants' teeth, and 7863 teeth, the weight of which is not given; 611 casks of Palm Oil; 177 tons of Barwood, and 6465 pieces of which the weight is not given; 132½ tons of Camwood; 84 casks of Malaguetta Pepper; and 15 tons of Ebony.

mited extent of sale. Among these may be enumerated Palm Oil, which is become of great use in the manufacture of Soap, and is produced on the Coast of Africa in great plenty; but the heavy duty of 12*l.* and upwards per ton, prevents its being so generally employed in this manufacture as it otherwise most probably would be. The same may be said of various other articles, which, it will be seen, are subject to heavy duties."

"Incalculable benefits may also arise to both countries, by a perseverance in the excellent and judicious plan, already adopted by the Institution, of supplying the natives of Africa with such seeds and plants as are suitable to the climate, and may produce useful and valuable articles of merchandize; and if, whilst they are thus promoting a friendly intercourse between distant countries, the Institution should avail itself of the opportunities such intercourse will continually afford, to conciliate the dispositions, improve the faculties, and promote the happiness of the long-injured inhabitants of Africa, they will fulfil the laudable and beneficent purposes of their union, and entitle themselves to be ranked amongst the best friends of the human race."

## K.

THE following is an Account of the Importations into the Port of London from the Coast of Africa, between the 1st of January 1808, and the 1st of March 1809; as far as the same can be made out*—viz.: 4200 dozen of Calf-skins;

* There is reason to believe that the quantity has been considerably more than is here stated. The house of Swanzy, Bynon, & Co., alone have imported into London, in the last ten months, 8749 ounces of Gold Dust; 915 cwt. of Ivory; 70 tons of Malaguetta Pepper; 97 tons of Camwood; 40 cwt. of Bees' Wax, and 60 cwt. of Palm Oil. They employ five vessels,

32,300 dozen of Goat-skins; 255 cwt. and 1059 serons (not weighed) of Almonds; 3150 cwt. besides 180 serons and 59 casks (not weighed) of Gum Arabic; 4580 cwt. of Gum Senegal; 310 cwt. of Gum Copal; 48 cwt. of Gum Sandarac; 360lb. of Honey; 1300 cwt. of Palm Oil; 11,600lb. of Cotton; 4370 Ox-hides; 37 tons of Ebony; 278 tons of Camwood; 32 tons of Redwood; 1515 cwt. of Ivory; 736 cwt., besides 30 pipes and 329 serons (not weighed) of Bees' Wax; 1900 cwt. of Malaguetta Pepper, or Guinea Grains; 4350lb. of Worm-seed; and a small quantity of Millet-seed, Dates, Ginger, Citron, and Ostrich Feathers.

## L.

*The following are Clauses of Acts of Parliament on the subject of Insuring Slaves, or Slave Ships: viz.*

### 46 *Geo. III. Cap.* 52, § 7.

"And be it further enacted, That, from and after the said first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seven, if any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident within this United Kingdom, or within any of the Islands, Colonies, Dominions, or Territories thereunto

from 100 to 200 tons, in the direct trade between this country and Africa, and five more, from 50 to 80 tons, in the Coast trade of Africa. In a letter, containing the above information, they state, that, "of some of the products of Africa, a much larger quantity might be imported were the duties less; particularly Guinea Grains, and Palm Oil. The duty on the former amounts to a prohibition. If the duty were reduced one-half, and Palm Oil placed on the footing of Tallow, the importation would be in such quantity as would amply compensate for the reduction of duty: and it would further materially tend to the increase of trade and civilization in Africa, if the duties on the various productions of that country were placed on the same scale with those on similar articles imported from the most favoured countries."

belonging, shall knowingly and wilfully insure, or cause or procure to be insured, any Ship, Vessel, Slaves, Goods, or Commodities whatsoever, employed or to be employed in the trading in or carrying of Slaves from Africa or elsewhere, to any Island, Colony, Territory, or Place belonging to or under the dominion of any foreign Sovereign or State, or to any of the said Settlements, Islands, Colonies, or Plantations, which have been surrendered to his Majesty's arms during the present war (except such limited and licensed trade to the latter as is by the said Order in Council, and this present Act allowed), any person or persons so insuring or causing or procuring any such Insurance to be made, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of five hundred pounds; and every such Insurance shall be absolutely null and void."

47 *Geo. III. Cap.* 36, § 5.

" And be it further enacted, That from and after the said first day of May one thousand eight hundred and seven, all Insurances whatsoever to be effected upon or in respect to any of the trading, dealing, carrying, removing, transhipping, or other transactions by this Act prohibited, shall be also prohibited and declared to be unlawful; and if any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident within this United Kingdom, or within any of the Islands, Colonies, Dominions, or Territories thereunto belonging, or in his Majesty's possession or occupation, shall knowingly and wilfully subscribe, effect, or make, or cause or procure to be subscribed, effected, or made, any such unlawful Insurances or Insurance, he or they shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one hundred pounds for every such Insurance, and also treble the amount paid or agreed to be paid as the premium of any such Insurance, the one moiety thereof to the use of his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform, sue, and prosecute for the same."

# M.

## *Extracts of Letters from the* GOVERNOR *of* SIERRA LEONE *to the* SECRETARY, *dated in May*, 1808.

" THE principal nation to the northward, with which we have any connection, is the Mandingo. At present it is involved in a dispute between two leading families, that of Findamoodo of Wonkapong, a true Mandingo, and that of Tanany, who is descended partly from the Bulloms (the ancient inhabitants of the country), and partly from the Mandingoes, who dispossessed them. Were it not for these divisions, this people would be very powerful. They are Mahometans, and are rapidly extending their influence around us. We have always been on friendly terms with them; but their ambitious and intriguing spirit, their numbers and courage, would make them very formidable, were it not for their intestine jealousies, and their frequent fears of insurrection among their slaves.

" To the east and north-east of the Mandingo country lie the Foulahs, a wide-extended and powerful nation. They, also, are Mahometans, and have been continually at war with the petty heathen states which surround them. This circumstance, and some gross acts of treachery attributed to them, apparently prevent them from extending their religion, and increasing their influence, in proportion to the Mandingoes, though they are, beyond comparison, more numerous and powerful. Their trade, which usually is very considerable, is wholly engrossed by the factories in the Rio Pongas. The route, however, from their capital city, Teemboo, to the upper branches of this river, is shorter than that to the Rio Pongas; but the rude dispositions of the inhabitants of the

intermediate countries, have hitherto rendered unsuccessful all efforts to open a direct intercourse with them. Nevertheless, the attempt is still continued. It is reported, that last year they were pretty severely beaten, the retreat of their army cut off, and the king himself nearly made prisoner, by the people of Sulima; a small country situated south-east of Teemboo. Whether this be true or not, I believe it to be a fact that all trade with the Foulah country has been suspended for about four months. Between these nations and the colony are many unconnected and independent tribes, belonging to the Soosoo, Bullom, and Timmaney nations. We are on friendly terms with all with whom we have any intercourse.

"A war has been faintly carried on, for several years, among the natives of the Timmaney nations who inhabit the upper branches of the Sierra Leone River. The mediation of this government has lately been requested, in order to terminate it. We are using our best endeavours for this purpose, with good hope of success.

"To the south-east the country is inhabited entirely by the Bullom people, for a great distance. A very destructive war raged there some time since; but a truce was concluded, about three years ago, through our mediation, which continues hitherto unbroken.

"Our nearest neighbours, who some years ago twice attacked the Colony, and with whom peace was not concluded till last July, are now on the most friendly terms with us.

"There can be no doubt but that the influence of the Colony has of late rapidly increased."

"I have very little farther to say respecting the effects of the Abolition: our dispute with America has probably done more towards carrying it into full effect, than all other measures put together. The Traders to the northward, I hear, still buy the few Slaves that are offered to them, hoping for some change in their favour."

" There is scarcely any thing for which I thank you more sincerely, than Dr. BELL's book. We cannot put in practice his whole system, for want of superintendants *; but this is the only difficulty: every thing else suits our circumstances admirably well. Some few of his " practices " I have adopted, with manifest advantage. His book has also stirred up our minds, and excited our attention to the business of education, more than formerly.

" The youths from Yorkshire [meaning those lately gone out] may be of great advantage to us."—" The Schools continue."

" A taste for cultivation is beginning among the Maroons. I hope we shall have some Coffee at the end of this year. Smith is an indefatigable planter.

" Partly connected with agriculture is the breeding of Cattle. In this respect, also, we are improving; their number is increased, and they thrive well.

" In all these respects, nevertheless, we must go on by slow steps. The way to almost every improvement is pointed out by the example of the few Europeans residing in the Colony, who have many different kinds of business to attend to, and little capital but what they may annually appropriate to such objects out of their salaries. The Maroons and Nova Scotians have, of course, nothing but the labour of their own hands to go on with; they possess little skill or experience; and their habits, perhaps their evident interests, for the present moment, disincline them to agricultural pursuits. A capital once possessed, and skill once obtained, may do wonders; but, to save up a capital, and to go from the first rudiments through all the progressive steps of knowledge, is a long and tedious process: yet if civilization be our object, this process must be gone through with. If we improve,

* Superintendants are now supplied by means of the African youths lately sent to the Colony.

we shall ultimately succeed: and however slow our improvement may actually be, improvement both goes on, and goes on at an accelerating rate."

## N.

*Extracts of Letters from Mr.* H. MEREDITH *to the* SECRETARY, *dated at Cape Coast Castle, in August* 1808, *and January* 1809.

"FOR upwards of a century the Gold Coast of Africa has been known only for its chief production of Commerce, Gold, Ivory, and Slaves. Those who resorted hither allowed themselves no time for inquiry into the nature of the country, and the state of its inhabitants."

"Respecting the Agricultural and Commercial capacities of the African Continent, I may venture to affirm, that this part of Africa is rich in productions natural to countries under the same latitude, and abounds in others that are not to be found in the same luxuriance in either continent. The profits that arise from the Slave Trade, excluded many of the natives from applying themselves to manual labour. Corn, yams, and other necessaries, were purchased; and cultivation on the sea-coast was consequently neglected. Now that the Abolition has deprived them of those resources, the necessity of being more industrious is clearly indicated: every person appears to have arisen from a state of ease and indolence, and to turn his attention to propagating the fruits of the earth."

"The Commerce of this part of Africa, until better means of improvement and cultivation are adopted, must

be confined to only a few articles. Gold, Ivory, Palm Oil, Pepper, Bees' Wax, Honey, and Gums. Coffee, Cotton, Indigo, Sugar, Flour, and various other articles, may be added to the list of African produce. In a word, Africa is capable of wonderful improvement, both in a commercial and agricultural way, if proper means are resorted to.

"The intellectual condition of the African is not to be despised. In whatever way he may be considered in the West Indies, or in other countries, here we have an opportunity of viewing him in his genuine state. I have had occasion to admire, and every day I behold among them, men of great strength of mind, and admirably quick perception. In a general sense, the intellectual powers of the African is as rich as the soil, and, with the same attention, could be made as fertile." "Some, who have received a narrow education in England, have shewn proofs of a quick and extensive genius, and, with few exceptions, have become an ornament to society. Among our neighbours, the Dutch and Danes, we behold persons, educated by means of schools established in the country, who give proof of strong intellectual powers."

"When I view the moral state of the African, a number of deformities are seen, which every day may now tend to correct." "It is well known, that here the dearest objects of regard have often fallen victims to the fury of irreligion, and the allurements held out by a traffic, the loss of which the African, I firmly believe, has no cause to lament. The same disposition remains among them, and would be clearly manifested to-morrow, if other powers renewed the Slave Trade. I will therefore beg leave to say, that this would be a most fit season to introduce means of civilization and culture." "For the moral condition of the African could be reformed with less difficulty now than in a time of peace."

"Our forts in this part of Africa embrace a line of coast extending from Apollonia to Whydah, a distance of about 350 miles by land. The natives of both these kingdoms

are under a despotic government, particularly the latter."—"But the people with whose condition I am best acquainted are the Fantees, and other states that adopt similar laws and customs. They possess an extent of coast from Dick's Cove to Accra, and are under a government compounded of strange materials."—"Before the late visit from the king of Asiantee, the administration of public affairs was regulated and decided by three classes of men,---Braffaes, Pynins, and Fetishmen. The Braffaes *were* a body (for very few of them are now in being—the Asiantees nearly extirpated the whole) that made and distributed laws with an absolute authority. When a Braffae walked abroad, he carried with him fear and terror. Although he could not command the life of a Fantee—and in this he only differed from the most despotic power—yet his property was at his mercy: whatever necessaries he stood in need of, must be supplied by an individual or the public. From the decision of a Braffae there was no appeal, neither did it admit of the interposition of any of the other branches; but it was only the richer part of the state that could call in the aid of a court of Braffaes: they required to be well fed, and better paid; and woe unto the party that did not act in a liberal and even profuse manner! they generally lost their cause, and half of the award was left for their judges.

"In every respectable town there are men established for the administration of justice, or, more properly, for executing and promulgating the laws, called Pynins, which, in a literal sense, means the elders of the people. These men are chosen by the majority of the public. Sometimes they succeed by hereditary right: in this case, if any deficiency is perceived in their legal knowledge, their authority is suspended, and others appointed by the public voice. A court of Pynins may be justly called a court of equity; and is the only one wherein a Fantee may expect a clear examination into his case, and an impartial distribution of justice."—

" Their laws are particularly severe, as they have a general tendency to slavery. Murder is the only crime that does not meet with its merited punishment. Trivial offences are delayed, by which means they accumulate into what are considered serious crimes, and punished accordingly. If a person, for instance, through accident or design, was to kill a hen, no immediate notice probably would be taken of it, unless the person committing the offence should sue the party injured with presents; in which case forgiveness is granted. But if this is neglected, not only the person, but a part of his family, are liable to become slaves, or pay a handsome sum for their redemption. For the action is of this kind: the said hen would have been prolific, and her offspring would have likewise produced numbers, whereby the wealth of the owner would have been increased; and a sum adequate to this increase must be paid before a restitution is acknowledged.

" There is no part of the Fantee government where imbecility is more clearly seen, than in the abominable practice of Panyaring, which is an indulgence granted to seize any person or persons for the crimes of another; principally that of debt. By this distressing system, whole families, nay villages, have been sold and rendered desolate. When the Slave Trade was in being, this horrid practice was carried on with great fury, and it is continued to this day. If the offender is given up, panyaring ceases."

" The Fetishmen are a set of men full of cunning and deceit, and considered along the Coast with an awful reverence, as the ministers of their deities; and, where monarchy does not exist, their power is great. They industriously scatter abroad the seed of superstition, to the end that they may be considered with admiration, and consulted on every occasion of public or domestic calamity. The word Fetish signifies, in its literal sense, a supernatural power: it is also used in this country as the name of their deities or demons, whether ideal or corporeal. Their charms, or amulets, bear the same

signification. In short, whatever is considered by them to possess the power of good or evil, is denominated Fetish. According to Dalzel, the tiger is worshipped at Dahamy; the snake at Whydah: the alligator and hyena are the Fetishes of some parts of the Coast. Different families have sometimes different Fetishes. A piece of carved wood, besmeared with the yolk of an egg or palm oil, is held in as much veneration as the image of the Holy Virgin in some countries of Europe. Sentences of the Alcoran, carefully incased, are with some held in high estimation; while others prefer the horn of a goat, or the tooth of a tiger. When we consider the distress which superstition and its concomitants occasion in this wretched country, our interest and pity are strongly excited. Where no absolute government exists, Fetish is consulted on almost every occasion: their deity is easily bribed; and the man of indigent circumstances is sure to be the sufferer. For in general their deity is avaricious; and whoever is most profuse in gifts and sacrifices, is sure to be held in favour with his god; but it is the Fetishmen who take the whole, and enrich themselves at the expense of their credulous neighbours. If implicit obedience is not paid them, they have recourse to horrid expedients; and should forgiveness be implored, the avenging Fetish expects a handsome present before he is reconciled."

The writer then proceeds to notice, at some length, the means which he would recommend for improving the condition of Africa. Among these he specifies schools, which should convey a knowledge of the elementary branches of learning, as reading, writing, and accounts; and should combine with this, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. He likewise recommends the introduction of European implements of husbandry, in place of the hoe and bill.

"I am pretty well convinced," he adds, that "little can be accomplished without the benefit of schools, which must be on an extensive plan."

"The children of the most distinguished and respectable families are to be chosen for instruction, in preference to those of less note; as by their influence and authority, when they come of age, the designs of the Institution would be materially extended. The kings of Apollonia, Dahomy, and Asiantee, would willingly send one or two of their children; and the Caboccers, and different persons of respectability, would follow the same plan. Indeed, every person of consequence would cheerfully submit to having his child separated from him for the purpose of receiving knowledge that would put him on a footing with a White."

"The forts upon this coast are governed by English, Dutch, and Danes; and, from the general state of affairs, it may be supposed, that two powers out of the three are in a forlorn condition; but by a rigid economy, and good organization, their establishments are supported with a respectability beyond what could be conceived in England. Independent of Christiansborg Castle, the Danes have three strong forts; two of them, on the banks of the Rio Volta, a river of some magnitude, but accessible only to small vessels, and that in the dry season. Among the Danes, we perceive the great progress that cultivation has made since their abandonment of the Slave Trade. Civilization, likewise, is making rapid strides. The Governor in Chief of his Danish Majesty's Settlements, Mr. Schonning, has a most extensive plantation, from ten to fifteen miles, in an inland direction, from Christiansborg, where improvements are carried on without molestation; but it is to be considered, that the country is governed by a Chief in some measure tributary to the King of Asiantee, who is a great encourager of trade and industry. The Danes have sent to Europe specimens of Cotton and Coffee, and attempts are making to manufacture Indigo: the plant grows spontaneously in many parts of the Coast. The Danes are happily situated for cultivation: they live in the confines of a luxuriant country; and although the Volta

does not discharge itself freely into the sea, whereby it is rendered inaccessible to vessels of burthen, yet this disadvantage is amply requited by its overflowing its banks after the periodical rains, which causes a considerable tract of country to be richly manured. Not only the Volta, but the entrance to every river on the Gold Coast, is in a great measure concealed by rocks or sand-banks, which may be considered unfavourable in a commercial view, so far as an ingress for shipping is prevented; but these rivers are favourable for inland navigation."

"The Slave Trade is continued among the Dutch in a trifling degree: the only opportunity of disposing of Slaves is to the Portugueze. Their chief settlement, St. George del Mina, is the first in this country for strength, beauty, and convenience. It is admirably situated at the mouth of a small river, which runs nearly parallel with the sea, so that the Castle may be said to stand on a peninsula. It is a quadrangular building, surrounded with high walls, and mounted with brass ordnance. Towards the tower it is strengthened by a double ditch, over which are two draw-bridges. On the hill of St. Jago is a compact fort, within the range of musket shot from the Castle, called Conraadsborg—it is the key to Elmina."

"Here is an extensive garden; there is also a most beneficent institution kept up, namely, an Orphan School for the benefit of children whose parents have died in the service. Upon the whole, Elmina and the places near it are kept in a high state of improvement; and it would be a great acquisition towards the civilization of this part of Africa, as with it Fort Anthony at Axim, Orange Fort at Succondee, and Fort Sebestian at Chamah (a place of great importance) would fall.

"In addition to Elmina, Conraadsborg, and those beforementioned, the Dutch have Fort Nassau at Mauree, Fort Amsterdam at Cormantyne, and five other forts of less importance. The Dutch have not gone beyond culinary produc-

tions; but in this sort of cultivation they hold a pre-eminence. They are fond of building, and this disposition is encouraged by the facility with which they can build—lime, stone, and timber being abundant; and among upwards of five hundred slaves, they have excellent artificers.

"We hold an advantage beyond our neighbours—that of commanding a greater extent of sea-coast."—"We have no settlement on the borders of any considerable river, which prevents our having a more easy access to states inland of us; but from the good understanding subsisting with men of consequence, leave would be readily given to admit the traveller or the naturalist."

"I will here take the liberty of relating what has been told us by one of those men called Moors, who, with many others of his tribe, was with the king of Asiantee in his late expedition, and formed part of his army. This person was considered with much respect. He was a native of Lasina, a kingdom bordering on Medina, and which lies in a south-east direction from Tombuctoo. He has been at Mecca and Tunis, and pointed out those places on the map. He described to us the mode of travelling across the Great Desert. He had never been at Tombuctoo, or, as he pronounced it, Tombut, but some of his countrymen had; and they agreed in saying that it was a place of great trade and much resorted to, and that it was enclosed by a wall; and that at Kabia, which they said was a short day's journey from Tombuctoo, the Niger is of considerable breadth. This description bears such a strong resemblance to the account given to Mr. Park, that little doubt can be attached to the information of this man. He said the Niger continues its course through Kasina, and keeps an E. S. E. or S. E. direction, allowing for various windings, till at length it forms a large lake, or, as he called it, a great sea. Circumstances prevented me from gaining further information from this extraordinary traveller."

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| *Ditto | Ditto, annual | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Mary | Hadwen, ditto | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| *Mr. Edward | Hannam, Gillingham | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Joseph | Hardcastle, Esq. Old Swan-stairs | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Hamer | Hargreaves, Liverpool | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Mr. John | Harrison, Liverpool | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. William | Haselden, ditto | 2 | 2 | 0 |

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| Mr. Thomas | Hassall, ditto | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. John | Harvey, ditto | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. John | Hatchard, 190, Piccadilly | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| *Ditto | Ditto, annual | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Miss | Hills, Tadcaster | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| Messrs. | Hodgson & Pearson, ditto | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| *R. T. | How, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| *Luke | Howard, Esq. Plough-court | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| John | Huddlestone, Esq. Old Windsor | 31 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Mr. S. | Hull, ditto | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| Dr. | Kilvington, Rippon | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Charles | Kinder, Esq. Chesterfield | 10 | 10 | 0 |
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| The Bishop of | London | 31 | 10 | 0 |
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| *Ditto | Ditto, annual | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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| *Ditto | Ditto, annual ..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. John | Pumphrey, ditto..... | 7 | 12 | 6 |
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| *Ditto | Ditto, annual | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| George | Saunders, Esq. ditto | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| D° at Colebrook (per W. Horton, Esq.) | | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| D° at Penzance | | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| D° at Worcester | | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| Baptist Congregation at Dumfirline | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| A Lady (per the Treasurer) | | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| A Deceased Friend (per W. Wilberforce, Esq.) | | 66 | 0 | 0 |
| * Ditto Annual (per ditto) | | 16 | 10 | 0 |
| A Friend (per W. Allen, Esq.) | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| D° (at Liverpool) | | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| A Friend (per Mr. J. Hadwen) | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| A Friend | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| H. H. per ditto | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| P. T. per ditto | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. M. per ditto | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| B. W. per ditto | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| T. R. per ditto | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| N. S. Brighton | | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| N. B. | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. G. Liverpool | | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| S. C. (per Joseph Hardcastle, Esq.) | | 5 | 0 | 0 |

| | L. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| P. D. (per W. Cardale, Esq.) | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| P. R. (per ditto) | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| P. P. (per ditto) | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| X. Y. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Anonymous | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| D° | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| D° (per William Wilberforce, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| D° (per Smith and Holt) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Legacy by the late Mr. Francis Freshfield, of Colchester | 100 | 0 | 0 |

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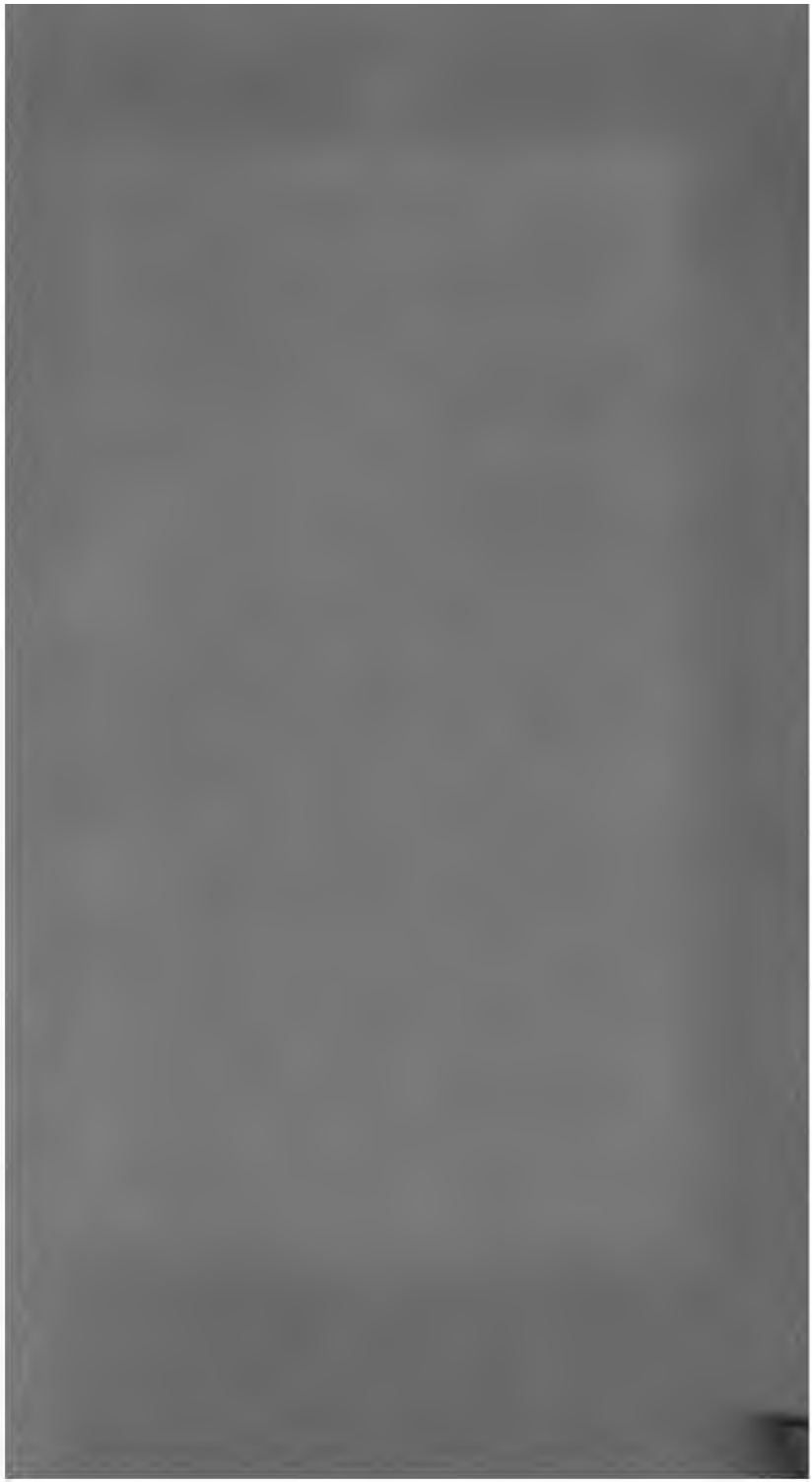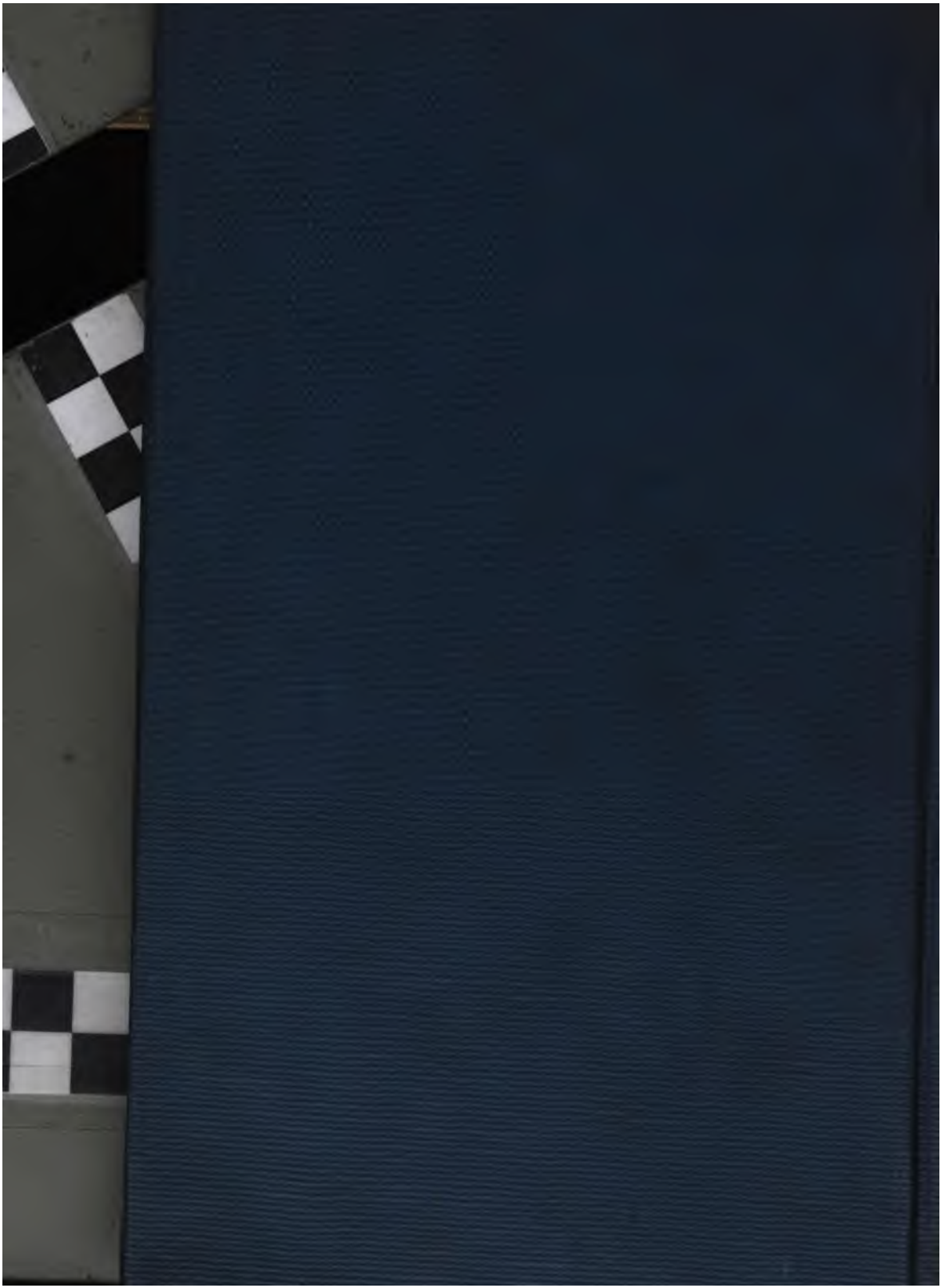
117